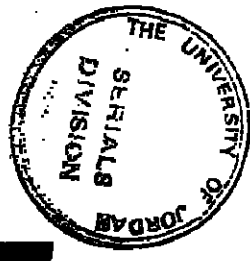


Soviet party to meet on presidency

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party Central Committee will meet March 11 to discuss a candidate for the country's proposed new executive presidency, a Soviet publication said Friday. The post, with sweeping powers, has been virtually created for Khrushchev, did not say who the Central Committee would nominate for the new presidency. Gorbachev Tuesday rejected the Supreme Soviet, or standing parliament, into backing his plan to create the presidential post, whose holder will be empowered to declare martial law or a state of emergency in parts of the country. He will also be able to appoint or remove the prime minister and other officials and declare war in case of attack. The new position must still be approved by the Congress of People's Deputies, the expanded parliament which convenes March 12-13. Interfax said that if the session of the Central Committee, the party's policy-making body, was not finished with its work by the time the Congress began, it would continue at the same time or take a recess and resume after the congress.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي

U.N. says Israel harassing workers

VIENNA (R) — A United Nations agency aiding Palestinian refugees accused Israeli authorities Friday of harassing its workers and rifling U.N. files in health centres in the Gaza Strip. The Vienna-based U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said it had made four protests to Israel over repeated raids on its medical centres in Israeli-occupied territories since early last month. UNRWA said in a statement: "On Feb. 19, soldiers entered the clinic in Nuseirat camp and ransacked records, interrogated and searched staff on night duty and threw medical books and slides to the ground. 'The intrusion lasted one and a half hours,' it said. Israeli civil officials accompanied by soldiers entered the clinic in the Rafah refugee camp on Feb. 6, and similar incidents took place at the Bureij and Nuseirat clinics, it said. UNRWA said it would continue to protest over the violations and would ask Israel to make sure they did not happen again.

Volume 15 Number 4330

AMMAN SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1990, SHA'BAN 6, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Amnesty team arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from Amnesty International arrived in Amman Thursday for talks related to human rights and the democratisation process in Jordan. The delegation, which is led by the London-based human rights organisation's secretary-general, Ian Martin, will hold talks today with Minister of Interior Salem Masa'deh, and with other Jordanian officials and organisations later on in the visit.

Ministry wants to buy planes for rain

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Water and Irrigation has requested the Prime Ministry to allocate funds for the purchase of three planes used to induce rain. The ministry said that planes will be used for meeting the pressing needs for water for agricultural, industrial and household use, and to replenish the shortage of ground water and dams water. The ministry said that purchasing rather than chartering the planes was more feasible, because charter rates were very high. The Department of Meteorology has received specification from the supplier for a fully equipped plane. According to the specifications, each plane will cost between \$200,000 and \$250,000. The planes will not be used more than six months a year and the flying hours won't exceed 80 hours during the rainy season, the ministry said in its letter to the Prime Ministry.

Jewish converts from Peru settle in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The latest Jews to join the controversial settlements in the Israeli-occupied West Bank came the long way — from the Peruvian Andes via Christianity. Some 50 Peruvian Indians arrived in Israel Wednesday and were taken to the small Jewish settlement of Eilon Moreh, on a West Bank hilltop near the Palestinian city of Nablus. The group was converted to Judaism six months ago in Peru by Rabbi Eliyahu Avihail, who told army radio Friday the Indians were unperturbed by the political controversy over settlement. "They asked to live in a settlement of religious Jews like Eilon Moreh and that's where they intend to live for the time being," Avihail said. They have come not only to live as complete Jews but to observe the religious obligation of settling the land of Israel in its entirety," he added. The Arab World has demanded Israel stop Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and Washington said Thursday it would help finance the wave of Soviet immigrants only if the Jewish state froze settlement. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir criticised the U.S. statement and ordered that military censorship be imposed on all future reports of Soviet immigration.

Arabs should defend themselves

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria urged Arabs to defend themselves and said Damascus would rather fight for a hundred years rather than give up an inch of Arab land. The official daily Al Baath, organ of the ruling Baath Party, said Friday that there was an atmosphere in the Middle East similar "to that which preceded every Zionist aggression against the Arab Nation since 1948." "The political game and words about partition, truce, alliances and groupings are now being repeated as if we are seeing a mirror of the past and nothing new..." "We in Syria will repeat and reiterate what our leader (President) Hafez Al Assad said that Zionism is the real danger and we prefer to fight a hundred years rather than abandon an inch of Arab land," Al Baath said.

Earthquake shakes eastern Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.4 on the open-ended Richter scale shook eastern Algeria Friday, the Algerian News Agency (APS) reported. It put the epicentre in the area of Mila, 280 kilometres east of Algiers. The North African fault, through Algeria has been especially active over the past six months.

Sfeir pressure forces Aoun troop withdrawal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — General Michel Aoun's troops Friday gave up some of their latest gains in savage fighting with the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia in a withdrawal apparently prompted by church pressure.

The troops withdrew shortly after Lebanese Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir threatened Christian warlords and their men with excommunication unless they halted their mouth-old war for control of East Beirut.

"Thus, they will be expelled from the church body and prevented burial according to church rites," Sfeir said in his latest plea for a ceasefire in the war which has killed 785 people and wounded 2,600.

Both Aoun and LF leader Samir Geagea vowed in separate statements to abide by the ceasefire and fighting eased to sporadic rocket and mortar fire.

Aoun has previously warned the patriarch to stay out of politics and his supporters manhandling Sfeir last November after he supported a peace pact which led to the election of President Elias Hrawi.

Aoun condemned the attack, which caused Sfeir to flee temporarily to Syrian-held territory. Geagea, who does not condemn the peace pact outright, is known to have a closer personal relationship with Sfeir.

Witnesses said scores of Aoun's troops pulled out from areas they seized during pitched battles Thursday and early Friday.

"We taught them a lesson they will never forget but we received orders to pull out," an army commando told Reuters.

A source close to Aoun said the withdrawal was "a goodwill gesture and in response to mediation efforts by the Vatican, France and Patriarch Sfeir."

Political sources said the Vatican and France had put intense pressure on Aoun to withdraw and the LF's tenacious resistance, which caused heavy army losses, had also contributed.

Aoun's army gained little ground in its two-day assault despite house-to-house tank, artillery and rocket battles, the sources said.

A mediation committee held separate meetings with Aoun and Geagea all day. "We are on the road to a solution," one of the mediators, Father Bulos Naaman, said afterwards. "Today we achieved a step forward."

Many took advantage of the lull to flee to the mountains. A 70-year-old woman, carrying her few belongings in a sheet, stood on an empty street begging passing cars for a ride. "Please, please take me with you," she said.

Ambulances and firemen roamed the streets to collect casualties, some of whom had lain bleeding for two days. Civil defence workers said many had died for lack of medical attention.

At least 75 people were killed and 170 wounded Thursday when the two sides resumed their all-out war for the Christian enclave after a shaky 13-day truce.

"Every day we used to think the worst was over, every day we realise how wrong we were," said one terrified civilian.

President Elias Hrawi told a news conference in West Beirut that he would intervene when the time was right.

"If the country, its military institution, people, and infrastructure are endangered, there is no alternative but to use this right (to intervene) and we will use it at the appropriate time," he said.

In Cyprus, agents for the ferry service which runs the Christian enclave's only direct link with the outside world said a boat would leave Larnaca for Jounieh Friday night.

The service had been suspended since a gunboat attacked a ferry off Lebanon a week ago.

Earlier Friday Aoun's infantry and tank crews had renewed their attack on militiamen defending the Sin Al Fil district but security sources said they made little progress against stiff resistance.

A huge black cloud hung over East Beirut. At times, a shell or rocket landed every six seconds around the front lines.

The security sources said Aoun was apparently trying to cut Sin Al Fil off from LF headquarters at the docks in Karantina, the suburb of Dora and the residential area of Ashrafieh.

Political sources said the resumption of all-out battles indicated war for the Christian enclave after a shaky 13-day truce.

"Every day we used to think the worst was over, every day we realise how wrong we were," said one terrified civilian.

President Elias Hrawi told a news conference in West Beirut that he would intervene when the time was right.

"If the country, its military institution, people, and infrastructure are endangered, there is no alternative but to use this right (to intervene) and we will use it at the appropriate time," he said.

In Cyprus, agents for the ferry service which runs the Christian enclave's only direct link with the outside world said a boat would leave Larnaca for Jounieh Friday night.

The service had been suspended since a gunboat attacked a ferry off Lebanon a week ago.

Earlier Friday Aoun's infantry and tank crews had renewed their attack on militiamen defending the Sin Al Fil district but security sources said they made little progress against stiff resistance.

A huge black cloud hung over East Beirut. At times, a shell or rocket landed every six seconds around the front lines.

The security sources said Aoun was apparently trying to cut Sin Al Fil off from LF headquarters at the docks in Karantina, the suburb of Dora and the residential area of Ashrafieh.

Political sources said the resumption of all-out battles indicated war for the Christian enclave after a shaky 13-day truce.

"Every day we used to think the worst was over, every day we realise how wrong we were," said one terrified civilian.

President Elias Hrawi told a news conference in West Beirut that he would intervene when the time was right.

"If the country, its military institution, people, and infrastructure are endangered, there is no alternative but to use this right (to intervene) and we will use it at the appropriate time," he said.

In Cyprus, agents for the ferry service which runs the Christian enclave's only direct link with the outside world said a boat would leave Larnaca for Jounieh Friday night.

The service had been suspended since a gunboat attacked a ferry off Lebanon a week ago.

Earlier Friday Aoun's infantry and tank crews had renewed their attack on militiamen defending the Sin Al Fil district but security sources said they made little progress against stiff resistance.

A huge black cloud hung over East Beirut. At times, a shell or rocket landed every six seconds around the front lines.

The security sources said Aoun was apparently trying to cut Sin Al Fil off from LF headquarters at the docks in Karantina, the suburb of Dora and the residential area of Ashrafieh.

Political sources said the resumption of all-out battles indicated war for the Christian enclave after a shaky 13-day truce.

"Every day we used to think the worst was over, every day we realise how wrong we were," said one terrified civilian.

President Elias Hrawi told a news conference in West Beirut that he would intervene when the time was right.

"If the country, its military institution, people, and infrastructure are endangered, there is no alternative but to use this right (to intervene) and we will use it at the appropriate time," he said.

In Cyprus, agents for the ferry service which runs the Christian enclave's only direct link with the outside world said a boat would leave Larnaca for Jounieh Friday night.

The service had been suspended since a gunboat attacked a ferry off Lebanon a week ago.

Earlier Friday Aoun's infantry and tank crews had renewed their attack on militiamen defending the Sin Al Fil district but security sources said they made little progress against stiff resistance.

A huge black cloud hung over East Beirut. At times, a shell or rocket landed every six seconds around the front lines.

The security sources said Aoun was apparently trying to cut Sin Al Fil off from LF headquarters at the docks in Karantina, the suburb of Dora and the residential area of Ashrafieh.

Political sources said the resumption of all-out battles indicated war for the Christian enclave after a shaky 13-day truce.

"Every day we used to think the worst was over, every day we realise how wrong we were," said one terrified civilian.

President Elias Hrawi told a news conference in West Beirut that he would intervene when the time was right.

"If the country, its military institution, people, and infrastructure are endangered, there is no alternative but to use this right (to intervene) and we will use it at the appropriate time," he said.

In Cyprus, agents for the ferry service which runs the Christian enclave's only direct link with the outside world said a boat would leave Larnaca for Jounieh Friday night.

The service had been suspended since a gunboat attacked a ferry off Lebanon a week ago.

Earlier Friday Aoun's infantry and tank crews had renewed their attack on militiamen defending the Sin Al Fil district but security sources said they made little progress against stiff resistance.

A huge black cloud hung over East Beirut. At times, a shell or rocket landed every six seconds around the front lines.

The security sources said Aoun was apparently trying to cut Sin Al Fil off from LF headquarters at the docks in Karantina, the suburb of Dora and the residential area of Ashrafieh.

Political sources said the resumption of all-out battles indicated war for the Christian enclave after a shaky 13-day truce.

"Every day we used to think the worst was over, every day we realise how wrong we were," said one terrified civilian.

Badran: Gulf understands Jordan's needs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Gulf Arab countries visited by His Majesty King Hussein during his latest tour that ended Thursday have displayed full understanding of Jordan's current needs and revealed an identity of views about the need for an Arab summit meeting to deal with problems facing the Arab Nation, Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said.

Results pertaining to these countries' understanding of Jordan's position, emanating from King Hussein's talks with the Gulf leaders, will soon be made public, the prime minister said in a statement quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Speaking upon returning to Amman with His Majesty King Hussein from the Gulf tour, Badran said that in his talks with the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, King Hussein discussed pan-Arab affairs and Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations.

The meeting resulted in joint understanding of the urgent need for convening an Arab summit provided that ample preparations for it are made, so that different issues to be discussed can be defined to help the summit succeed in finding proper means of ending off the common dangers, the prime minister said.

He said that the two leaders discussed also the question of peace between Iraq and Iran, a subject taken up also by the King at his meetings with the rulers of Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In addition, the King discussed the question of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the other Eastern European nations to Palestine, Badran added.

He said that there was a convergence of views on the need to end the no-peace no-war situation in the Gulf so that permanent peace can be established between Iraq and Iran, and efforts can thus be exerted to deal with the new Zionist threat in the occupied Arab land.

Apart from Badran, the King's talks in the Gulf area were attended by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

While in the UAE, King Hussein sent his greetings to the Jordanian people on the 34th anniversary of the Arabisation of the Armed Forces and the 31st anniversary of Radio Jordan.

He said that the Jordanian Armed Forces will remain the army of the whole Arab Nation, and will continue to confront all challenges and dangers posed to

over power in a peaceful and orderly manner," Alexander said.

Alexander, a prominent member of South Africa's Trade Union Movement and women's activist, was banned from union activities in 1953 by Pretoria's white minority government.

Simon was a lecturer at Cape Town University before being banned in 1965 from writing for publication or attending public meetings. The couple left the country shortly afterwards.

During his years in exile, Simon has been a key figure in formulating the ANC's constitutional guidelines for a post-apartheid South Africa.

The couple are believed to be the first ANC exiles to return home since De Klerk lifted a 30-year ban on the organisation last month in a bid to bring black leaders to the constitutional negotiating table.

The amnesty does not extend to ANC members guilty in Pretoria's eyes of crimes of violence, which means that many exiles are still biding their time before deciding to return.

Alexander and Simon have been offered honorary fellowships at Cape Town University's Centre for African Studies.

Shamir urges Baker to reconsider linking aid to halting settlements

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Friday urged U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III to reconsider a proposal to link American aid for Soviet immigrants here to a reversal of Israel's policy of settling Jews in the occupied territories.

"We do not accept this American position, and we intend holding a thorough discussion with the U.S. administration," Shamir said in a statement.

He added: "The linkage of the issue of immigration and the problem of settlements was completely unnecessary."

Shamir called on the administration of President George Bush to "reconsider this position."

Even stronger statements came from right-wing legislators and settlement leaders, some of whom called for increasing Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to underscore Israel's displeasure with Baker.

The issue arose during a U.S. House subcommittee session Thursday and raised tempers here at a time Shamir already is under pressure from Baker to move forward on a U.S.-mediated effort to get Israeli-Palestinian peace talks going.

Baker also told the subcommittee he expects a decision soon from the Shamir government on the peace process.

"We have done pretty much all we can do, we think, from our end, and we are waiting for a response from the Israeli government," he said.

Israel's four top leaders were to meet Sunday on the issue, but it was unclear if a decision would be made at the meeting.

Shamir has so far rejected Baker's suggestions for compromise on the composition of a Palestinian delegation for the preliminary talks and on the agenda.

The prime minister also has been caught in the middle of pressures from the rival Labour Party, which wants acceptance of the Baker plan, and hard-liners in his own Likud Bloc who resist

any compromise. Israel has requested \$400 million in U.S. loan guarantees to help build housing for thousands of Soviet Jews who have begun immigrating to Israel.

Baker Thursday told the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations that approval of the funds should be linked to "assurances" from Israel that "these funds will not be used to create new settlements or expand old settlements in the occupied territories."

The United States considers the settlements, which have put about 70,000 Jews in the occupied territories, as an obstacle to peace.

The West Bank and Gaza, occupied in the 1967 Middle East war, are home to 1.7 million Palestinians who are campaigning for an independent state.

The issue of settlements has been intertwined with Soviet immigration since mid-January.

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

In another development, Abu Sharif urged the Soviet Union, United States and Western Europe Thursday to prevent Jewish immigrants from settling in Israeli-occupied territories. He

(Continued on page 3)

process and said the government continued to oppose the settling of Soviet Jewish migrants in the territories.

He told Abu Sharif that Britain would do all it could to keep the peace process moving and encouraged the PLO "to stick to its moderate policies and continue working constructively towards an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo." A Foreign Office official said.

Israel censors reports on Soviet Jewish immigration

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel imposed sweeping censorship on news of Soviet Jewish immigration Friday amid a growing crisis with Washington over their potential settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The drastic move came one day after U.S. Secretary of State James Baker linked Israeli requests for American financial aid for the newcomers to a freeze on new construction of Jewish settlements in the territories.

"The IDF (Israeli army) censor announces that all material pertaining to immigration of Soviet Jews must be submitted to the censor prior to publication," an army statement said.

The new rules mean Israeli and foreign reporters need approval of the military censor to send any reports on the Soviet Jewish immigration.

Baker's statement on settlements, combined with saying progress on peace depends on Israel, prompted angry warnings from officials close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that his government might now find it more difficult to join Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Up to 100,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants are expected in Israel this year, one of the largest waves ever. So far only a few hundred of the immigrants have settled in the West Bank and none in the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir touched off fears among Palestinians and in the Arab World in January when he said: "For the

big immigration, we need a big Israel."

His remarks were widely seen as justifying continued Israeli control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.75 million Palestinians.

Palestinians in the territories have waged a 26-month-old uprising for independence from Israeli rule in which more than 800 Arabs have been killed.

Arab states have bitterly criticised Moscow for allowing the Jews to emigrate to Israel and the United States for encouraging the new Soviet openness.

The Soviet Union has refused to implement an airline agreement for direct Moscow-Tel Aviv flights, citing immigration to the West Bank. Direct flights would allow an even larger flow of immigrants.

Fearing worldwide protests might curtail the flow of Soviet immigrants, immigration officials earlier this week proposed censorship on all information pertaining to Soviet Jews.

In 1984-85, initial reports of an Israeli airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel were suppressed by the censor, who has wide powers to delay or ban publication of sensitive material. Details of current Ethiopian immigration remain under censorship.

Israeli officials maintain there is no official policy of encouraging Soviet Jews to settle in the disputed territories, saying all Israelis are free to settle where they choose.

The government has not allocated new funds for housing immigrants in the occupied territories. It has approved 40,000 new units in the fiscal year 1990 within its pre-1967 borders.

But Palestinians fear any new Jewish settlement in the territories could displace them by competing for jobs and scarce water resources.

U.S. ambassador to Israel William Brown last week noted that all settlers currently receive tax breaks and special government benefits.

The Israeli daily Maariv said the decision was recommended by senior government officials and approved by Shamir. A Shamir aide, however, said it had "nothing to do with the prime minister."

The newspaper said the move followed this week's estimate that up to 230,000 Soviet Jews are expected to immigrate this year, as opposed to previous estimates of 80,000 to 100,000.

The new estimate was made by Yasha Kazakov, deputy head of the liaison bureau, a once-secret government unit that deals with Soviet immigration, Israeli media reports said.

Maariv said the figure "created panic in the Arab countries, and the protests coming from these countries endanger immigration."

Shamir's top aide Yossi Ben-Aharon agreed, saying that "there is so much talk of numbers and forecasts that it caused damage. Why say 230,000 or whatever."

Ben-Aharon, interviewed Thursday night, said he was not aware of any order to the censor but added:

"I know there is a campaign by all the Arab World against the immigration, so what's the wonder."

Israeli newspapers last Friday warned of a possibility that Arab guerrillas could target immigrants for a retaliatory attack.

The Jerusalem Post daily quoted a "reliable" source as saying Israel has stepped up security for immigrants because of these fears.

Ben-Aharon said he was not aware of any concrete threat, but noted that "the Arabs spoke in terms very close to threats."

Following the attack warnings, President Chaim Herzog, a former military intelligence chief, last week called for censoring immigration reports.

Herzog said that Israel has in the past imposed censorship on immigration, particularly from Arab countries.

"During all the years of great immigrations, governments of Israel imposed censorship — in agreement with the media — on all related to reports on immigration, numbers, countries of origin and travel routes," Herzog said.

Cairo hotel fire death toll rises to 17

CAIRO (AP) — Police said a 17th body was found Friday in the debris of the Heliopolis Sheraton Hotel. There was uncertainty over the fate of three American guests at the burned-out hotel, and three Britons were reported missing.

Meanwhile, the U.S. embassy said an American victim of the fire was tentatively identified as a 62-year-old Houston man who had been in Egypt only hours when the fire ignited early Thursday. And in London, the Foreign Office said a British victim had been identified but relatives not yet notified.

The fire, set off by sparks from a peasant-type bread oven in a tourist tent, raged for nine hours through the Sheraton's lobby and many of its 630 rooms. Strong winds, common at this time of year in Egypt, and the lack of an alarm system or sprinklers, were blamed for the fire's rapid spread.

Col. Ahmad Harb, the Heliopolis area police chief, said the body found Friday morning had not been identified, the seventh victim whose identity is unknown. He said those found and identified Thursday were three Finns, three French, a Greek and three Americans.

The director of Cairo's Central Morgue, Dr. Kamal Al-Saadani, said he had received bodies of 17 victims, 14 of whom died of burns and three of asphyxia.

Remains of five women still have not been identified, he said. The others were a Greek, a Briton, a Chilean and three nationals each of France, Finland and the United States.

But a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said only one American was confirmed dead, although three were unaccounted for. The discrepancy was unexplained, as was the difference in official accounts of Thursday that eight French nationals had died.

The American spokeswoman said "it's fairly certain, but not 100 per cent — about 90 per cent" that the dead man was Texan Robert O. Cresap, 62, whose injured wife Helen said was separated from her in the confusion of trying to escape the fire.

The spokeswoman, who asked that her name not be used, said Cresap was identified by documents and pictures but that the identification must be confirmed by a family member. She said Mrs. Cresap, in her 60s, was unable to leave her hospital bed to identify the body.

However, Saadani said Cresap's remains were among those at the morgue, a newly built facility opened a month ahead of time to handle the fire emergency.

At Heliopolis Hospital, Dr. Faiza Al-Masri said Mrs. Cresap was "in good, stable condition."

and had not been told of her husband's apparent death. The physician said women Sheraton employees who went to the hospital Thursday night to tell her changed their mind.

On Thursday, Mrs. Cresap told the Associated Press that she had not found her husband since the fire.

"We saw the big flames and went out to the corridor, but there was so much black smoke and we couldn't find the fire exit," she said from her hospital bed.

"We knocked on doors and gathered a big group and finally found the stairs, but the smoke was too much. We had to turn back. And then I fainted."

Most of her comments were in writing, because she was too weakened from her ordeal to speak. Dr. Masri said her vocal chords still were affected by smoke inhalation.

The American spokeswoman said she could neither confirm nor rule out the deaths of two other Americans, as claimed by Harb. It was possible that two of all three of the missing Americans had died, she said, but documentary proof was lacking and some bodies were too badly burned for prompt identification.

The Finnish embassy Thursday said two victims of the fire from Finland were Aino Noro and his wife Ossi, both 77. On

Friday, embassy official Elizabeth Tigerstedt identified the third dead Finn as Jens Heikkinen, a steward with the national airline Finnair.

He was the second member of an airline crew confirmed as a victim of the fire, after Olympic Airlines inflight hostess Eleni Grigoriou, 36, a Greek.

The Heliopolis Sheraton, about three kilometres from Cairo International Airport, was a favourite of airline crews. Several flights were reported delayed Thursday, some for hours, because of disruptions involving their crews.

Heliopolis Hospital's Dr. Masri said Patrick Nelson, an American steward with the West German airline Lufthansa, left Friday morning with a physician from Germany. A Lufthansa official said Nelson, 39, who suffered a broken spine, left aboard a special aircraft to get treatment in Munich.

Nelson's departure left Heliopolis Hospital with only four of the 17 survivors admitted Thursday for treatment of burns, broken bones and asphyxiation.

Masri said in addition to Mrs. Cresap, the others are a French woman and a Lebanese-Mexican man, both 45 with heat damage to the eyes, and Ian Patterson, 63, a British tour guide suffering chest congestion from smoke inhalation.

For many in Beirut, survival is all that's left

By Donna Abu-Nasr
Associated Press

BEIRUT — "Eat, Eat. We must survive this war," Amin Daher exhorted his nervous family as exploding artillery shells rocked his apartment in Christian east Beirut.

His wife, Angele, wearily picked up the fork that kept slipping from her trembling fingers and rattling against her plate with each shell blast.

"May God enlighten them, May God enlighten them," she murmured, picking at a lunch of lentils and rice, fried cauliflower and eggplant and cabbage salad.

The Dahers shared the lunch one day recently with a couple of neighbours, spread around a table in one of their apartment's bedrooms, which has been turned into a makeshift shelter.

Their five-storey apartment building, like many built before the civil war began in April 1975, has no basement shelter.

Everyone flinched as shells fired by fellow Christians exploded around their building.

"We have to keep going despite the grim future that awaits us," Daher said. "We should never give up."

The family used to climb down to share the shelter of a neighbouring building, but that has come to be increasingly dangerous.

Besides, Mrs. Daher has a weak heart and her husband suffers from asthma. So the children fortified the bedroom with stone blocks.

The stone protects them from blast and shrapnel, but won't save them from a direct hit.

Still, it's better than nothing. When the shelling is heavy, the Dahers and some neighbours crowd into the 3-metre-by-3-metre room and sleep on the floor. They have taken the beds out to make room for everyone.

Beside a flickering candle, a small statue of the Virgin Mary stands atop the TV set. The television is of no other use: There is no electricity.

"Life has come down to just filling our bellies. What kind of



Lebanese children play war games in a street in East Beirut while two Lebanese Forces militiamen are on the alert with real weapons.

life is this? What kind of future will my children have?" lamented the tall, balding Daher, 64, a retired customs officer.

The apartment building is in the Ashrafieh district, which lies on the green line dividing Beirut into mainly Christian and Muslim sectors.

The district has been continuously battered since 1975. It was the scene of heavy fighting in the first two years of the conflict between rival factions.

The Syrians besieged it for 100 days in 1978, pounding it with artillery fire. Since then, opposition gunners and snipers routinely have fired into the buildings, more exposed than most because Ashrafieh sits atop the highest hill in Beirut.

More than 150,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the civil war, twice as many wounded, and another 1 million, one fourth of the prewar population, displaced.

In the current bloodletting, rebel Christian Gen. Michel Aoun's troops are battling the Lebanese

Forces militia, commanded by onetime medical student Samir Geagea, for control of the 310-square-mile Christian enclave north of Beirut.

More than 700 people have been killed and more than 2,000 wounded in the confrontation so far.

Ashrafieh is one of Geagea's two remaining strongholds in east Beirut, which makes it a target for Aoun's artillery and tanks.

Aoun holds the districts to the east. The green line hems Ashrafieh into the southeast while the Mediterranean lies to the north.

The Dahers live with four of their children, sons Nazih, 32, a civil defence worker; Nadin, 28, an administrator with the Labour Ministry; Elias, 25, who works in a boutique; and daughter Nada, 21, a computer science student.

Their eldest son, Najib, was killed four months after the civil war started, when he was 19. A married daughter, Maha, 30, lives in the mountain resort of Bikfaya, which has escaped most of the fighting.

Nazih has been missing since the latest fighting began Jan. 30. He was visiting friends in the port of Jounieh, north of Beirut, when Aoun moved against Geagea.

Aoun's troops hold the area between Jounieh and Ashrafieh. All the telephone lines have been cut, no one knows if he's alive or dead.

"We just don't know anything about Nazih," his distraught mother whispered. "We sent him a message over the radio that we're all fine. I hope he heard it."

Nearly one-fourth of Ashrafieh's estimated 150,000 inhabitants have fled to safer areas. But the Dahers have nowhere to go, no relatives living in safer zones.

As if Mrs. Daher, 54, didn't have enough troubles, Elie is bed-ridden with the flu.

"The doctors in our area have all left. We couldn't find vitamins for him. I hope his condition doesn't deteriorate," she said as she squeezed a few shrivelled oranges she found in a nearby shop to make juice for Elie.

No Jordanians hurt

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordanian embassy sources in Cairo have reported that there were no Jordanians among those hurt in the fires which broke out at the Sheraton Heliopolis Hotel early Thursday.

The embassy sources said that Lower House of Parliament Member Hussein Mujalli, who had stayed at the hotel, left early Thursday to another hotel and then proceeded to Libya.

Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidqi visited the hotel Thursday and called the accident "a tragedy that caused great losses in lives."

U.N. appeals for Afghan aid

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations appealed Friday for more humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, citing food shortages in most of the country.

"We must not forget Afghanistan," said Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, head of the U.N. office coordinating assistance in Afghanistan.

The U.N. had planned \$650 million in aid for Afghanistan this year, but some promised donations had not yet been received, he told a news conference.

He said the situation in northern Afghanistan, where last year's harvest was ravaged by locusts, continued to deteriorate and there were food shortages in most of the country.

"But owing to the inaccessibility of many of the stricken areas, it is hard to assess the exact dimensions of the crisis," Prince Sadruddin said.

Afghans already made up more than one-third of the world's refugee population and the proportion would increase if no more was done to help those who remained in the country, he said.

An estimated five million Afghans have sought refuge in Pakistan and Iran as a result of 11 years of war between the Moscow-backed government and rebels.

Soviet troops left Afghanistan a year ago but Prince Sadruddin said there was still "low intensity" conflict.

The U.N. concentrated relief operations in so-called "zones of tranquillity," focusing on agriculture, food and health.

Prince Sadruddin said he hoped a substantial number of refugees would return to these areas next summer. Only 100,000 had gone home from neighbouring Pakistan and Iran since the bulk of the fighting stopped a year ago, he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Sudanese leader in Libya

NICOSIA (R) — Sudan's head of state General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir has begun an official visit to Libya, the Libyan News Agency JANA reported. JANA, received in Cyprus, said Bashir met deputy leader Major Abdul Salam Jalloud Thursday night but did not give details. Libya has given Sudan military help in its six-year fight against rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army in the south of the country.

West Bank trade unions unite

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Three rival trade union groups in the occupied West Bank have ended a nine-year rift and united in one federation bolstering the goals of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "Our objective is to gather our forces and energies to serve our workers and our national economy," said Shaber Saad, head of the new General Federation of Trade Unions in the West Bank. Speaking at a press conference in Arab Jerusalem, Saad said the merger serves Palestinian workers and the Palestinian national cause. "The executive committee reaffirms its stand with respect to the basic and inalienable right of our people in establishing their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital and the PLO as its sole legitimate representative," said Saad.

S. Arabia executes Pakistani

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Friday publicly beheaded a Pakistani convicted of attempting to smuggle heroin into the kingdom, the Saudi Press Agency SPA said Friday. The agency quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying the man was "caught upon entry to the Kingdom (travelling) on a false passport... heroin (was) found in a secret compartment in his suitcase." Saudi Arabia has so far beheaded 13 people this year. Official figures show at least 99 were executed last year. Riyadh Radio quoted another Interior Ministry statement as saying four Filipinos convicted of robbery had their right hands cut off Friday in the eastern city of Jubail. It said the men had broken into safes in company offices and shops in four cities.

Rebels report more protests in Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Friday its supporters held several anti-government demonstrations in Tehran this week, some leading to clashes with security forces. The Iraq-based Mujahideen Khalq said in a telex to Reuters that hundreds demonstrated in Razi-Astaneh (railway) Square in south Tehran Tuesday. Armed guards attacked and arrested a number of the demonstrators, it said. The group said other protests were held in west and north Tehran Tuesday and Sunday. The Tehran daily Ettelaat Thursday quoted Iran's Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri as saying for the first time that people who took part in a soccer riot in the capital three weeks ago had shouted anti-government slogans.

Iran to spend \$10b on defence

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's defence minister has said that the 5-year plan approved a month ago allotted \$10 billion for arms purchases and modernising the armed forces, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. It was the first time an Iranian official has announced an amount to be invested in defence, and it was not clear if it was the entire military budget. The daily Resalat newspaper reported last month that annual defence spending was \$4 billion.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary
18:05 Message from Iraq
18:25 A play by Shakespeare
19:10 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Consumer's Guide
22:25 Local programme
23:00 News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Le Grand Echiquier
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Amle McArthur
21:00 Good Evening Jordan
21:30 Classical Music
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature film: "Murder in Three Acts"

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
05:30 Sunrise/Duha

11:48 Dhuhur
15:45 'Asr
17:57 Maghreb
18:54 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624599
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 623246
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 611295
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 685326
Armenian International Church Tel. 611295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and another

rise in temperature will occur. Winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3/14
Aqaba 9/24
Deserts 2/16
Jordan Valley 8/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 76 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al-Ajan 894184
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 625778
Dr. Abdul Majid Al-Sheer 791405
Firas pharmacy 718336
Al Asema pharmacy 637035
Nadroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636729
Yasoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

rise in temperature will occur. Winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3/14
Aqaba 9/24
Deserts 2/16
Jordan Valley 8/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 76 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al-Ajan 894184
Dr. Bahjat Badr 849362
Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 625778
Dr. Abdul Majid Al-Sheer 791405
Firas pharmacy 718336
Al Asema pharmacy 637035
Nadroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636729
Yasoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Baghdad (RJ)
09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 New York, Montreal (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:40 Tripoli (RJ)
00:15 Aqaba (RJ)

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 New Delhi (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Baghdad (RJ)
09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 New York, Montreal (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:40 Tripoli (RJ)
00:15 Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:00 Baghdad (IA)
10:05 Cairo (MS)
12:25 Riyadh (SU)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
13:45 Tripoli (LN)
17:45 Rome (AZ)
17:30 Dubai, Damascus (EK)
23:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 Helsinki (RJ)
10:00 Tripoli (RJ)
10:40 Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 London (RJ)
12:15 Paris (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
19:40 Kuwait (RJ)
20:10 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15

Decree cancels Department of Development

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree Thursday approved the cancellation of the Amman Development Department (ADD) in accordance with a Lower House of Parliament decision.

The decree said that all the department's fixed assets will be transferred to the Jordan Investment Corporation and the Housing Bank.

The decree said that the department's debts will be transferred to the Greater Amman Municipality which in turn will assume responsibility for the department's commitments including loans.

According to the decree, the Jordan Investment Corporation and the Housing Bank which will equally own the assets were each

to pay JD 900,000 to the municipality for their respective shares of the assets within 30 days.

Public debt law

Another decree issued Thursday approved an amendment to the public debt law. The amendment allows government bonds to be sold in foreign currency provided that interests and principal should be repaid in the same foreign currency.

Another decree approved the 1990 fiscal budget with general public expenditure of JD 1,094.147 million and revenues at JD 906.7 million. The deficit in the Kingdom's current fiscal budget was estimated at JD 187 million.

Jordanian delegation leaves for 'Education for All' conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official Jordanian delegation led by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan arrived in Thailand to take part in a United Nations international conference on Education for All due to open March 5.

The delegation, which left for the conference Thursday, will submit a working paper highlighting developments in education and educational systems as well as different educational experiences in the Kingdom. The delegation will also present a documentary film, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The delegation will deliver His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's message to the conference, in which he outlines various aspects of education in the Arab World.

United Nations statistics show that about 62 million of the 200 million people living in the Arab World were illiterate.

To pave way for the conference, the organisers have convened 10 preparatory sessions around the world in the past year to get regional inputs for a final charter on Education for All by the end of the century to be debated at the Thailand conference.

One of these consultation meetings was held in Amman last November and attended by delegates representing ministries of education from the Arab World.

The Amman meeting discussed a draft charter on education for all and the framework for action for a global effort to resolve the problems facing basic education needs.

The meeting endorsed the charter but submitted a several remarks and proposed amendments which will be submitted to the Thailand conference.

According to the organisers, the conference and its objectives stem from the urgent need to meet the challenge of basic education denied to millions around the world including industrialised and developed countries. They say 100 million primary school-age children are not in school and one in five adults around the world is illiterate.

United Nations agencies sponsoring the conference are the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.



Crowds gather at the opening of "Al Aqsa Week" exhibition Friday to listen to speeches (Petra photo).

Al Aqsa Week exhibition opens

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Supervisor of the Muslim Brotherhood movement in Jordan, Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa, Friday opened a week-long exhibition, "Al Aqsa Week," at Al Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture.

The exhibition includes a special pavilion for pictures of the Palestinian uprising. The pictures reflect the steadfastness of the Palestinian people

and their struggle. It also includes a caricature corner, with drawings by Arab and Jordanian artists. The exhibition includes books, videos and cassettes on the Palestinian intifada, clothes, embroideries, handicrafts and a charity bazaar.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several senior government officials, Parliament members and a large number of citizens.

The ceremony was addressed by Khalifa, the Lower House of Parliament Deputy Hammam Said and Ahmad Noufal from the University of Jordan's Sharia (Islamic Law) Faculty. Speakers praised the uprising and the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people and stressed the need for supporting it through all possible means until victory is achieved and the usurped land is restored.

Meeting calls for use of solar energy to fight soil diseases

AMMAN (Petra) — The first international conference on the use of solar energy in fighting soil diseases has called for using solar energy in soil sterilisation and avoiding chemical products as much as possible.

The conference, which concluded Thursday, called for finding new methods and using advanced technology for developing the process of solar sterilisation in order to effectively combat soil diseases.

Professor of Agricultural Diseases at the University of Jordan

Dr. Walid Abu Gharbiyah told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the participants recommended conducting advanced scientific research in the field of solar sterilisation in order to understand the complicated effects of this process on soil constituents and consequently study the effect of solar sterilisation on bacteria types.

Abu Gharbiyah said that 108 specialists representing 18 countries participated in this conference including Jordan, Egypt,

Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, South Yemen, Italy, Spain, the United States, Greece, and West Germany.

He said that the conference discussed 44 scientific research papers, fourteen of which were presented by well-known scientists in the field of solar sterilisation.

The conference was organised by the University of Jordan Faculty of Agriculture, and the Food and Agriculture Agency in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture. It was also supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the National Research Centre in Italy, the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development, the Arab Society for the Protection of Plants, and the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Ministry opens several pasture, afforestation regions to grazing

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture has opened several pasture reserve and afforestation regions to farmers to feed their livestock.

Minister of Agriculture Sulaiman Arabiyat was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying Thursday that regulations have been issued stipulating that grazing of sheep and cattle in these regions can take place only during the day and under the supervision of rangers.

He said that priority for grazing will be given to farmers from villages closer to the pasture areas provided that formal requests be submitted.

According to the minister, grazing would be stopped "if it was found that it endangered agricultural wealth."

Arabiyat, who made an inspection tour of the Jordan Valley region and the Areda centre for marketing and processing agricultural product, said that the agricultural cropping pattern system would not be forced on the

farmers. He said that the Ministry of Agriculture will help the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO), which normally markets farmers' products and tries to ensure sufficient amounts of produce for the local market, to help it to boost its services to the farmers and overcome its present difficulties.

JAMPCO has incurred some debts, the minister said.

The company also operates tomato paste processing plants at the cost of JD 61 per tonne, he said. JAMPCO, Arabiyat added, will manufacture plastic boxes for its grading and packaging centres for crop export.

Arabiyat said that the Ministry of Agriculture was studying a plan for rescheduling farmers' debts and a plan for selling pesticides and other agricultural products at fixed and reasonable prices.

Arabiyat made the inspection tour with Minister of Water and

Irrigation Daoud Khalaf who told local farmers at a meeting that plans are being made to reorganise distribution of water to farm lands. He said that the Deir Alla water, which was being pumped to Amman, will be stopped if there was a water shortage for irrigation in the Jordan Valley.

"Once the Al Wahdah dam on the Yarmouk River is operational, there will be no more water problems," the minister said.

He said that the ministry has completed 75 per cent of a project to increase distribution of water through the drip irrigation system which will help the valley until Al Wahda dam has been completed.

Khalaf said that pollution levels of the King Talal dam have not yet reached the danger point and all measures were being taken to avoid the danger point. He said that the ministry was working out a solution for the dam's pollution problem, which will hopefully show results in the next few months.

Dentists to hold conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Dentists Association (JDA) announced Friday that it will open the ninth Jordanian dentists conference in Amman Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

JDA President Ismael Al Khairi said in a statement that nearly 400 dentists from Jordan and the Arab World will take part in the three-day conference, during which more than 40 lectures will be given.

Khairi said that scientific topics related to dentistry and common issues between dentistry and general medicine will be among the topics which will be discussed by the participants.

JDA's annual conferences, he said, were designed to promote cooperation between Jordanian dentists and their colleagues in the Arab World, and to raise the standard of dentistry through exchange of expertise and views.

According to the JDA president, an exhibition displaying dentistry material and equipment will be organised in Amman during the conference. He said that a large number of local and foreign companies will take part in the exhibition.

King congratulates Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday cabled congratulations to Moroccan King Hassan II on the anniversary of his accession to throne. In his cable, King Hussein wished the Moroccan monarch good health and the people continued progress and prosperity. King Hussein also hoped that Jordanian-Moroccan relations would continue to develop for the benefit of the two countries and the Arab Nation.

Prince Hassan meets traveller

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received Syrian traveller Nouri Mohammad Wafa'i. He presented the Prince emblem of the Syrian Olympic Committee. Prince Hassan wished him success in the voyage around the world he began in 1987 using a motorcycle. The 75-year-old traveller arrived in Amman Wednesday en route for Egypt and Morocco. He earlier visited Eastern and Western Europe covering a distance of 50,000 kilometres.

Qatanani meets U.S. church group

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr. Ahmad Qatanani Thursday received a delegation representing the U.S. Reformist Church currently on a visit to Jordan. Qatanani explained the developments of the Palestine uprising, Israeli's violations of human rights in the occupied territories, and the duties of the Department of Palestinian Affairs.

Sharaf to participate in Tunis meeting

TUNIS (Petra) — Upper House of Parliament member Laila Sharaf arrived in Tunis Thursday to participate in the meetings of the first Arab National Conference scheduled to begin Saturday. The three-day conference will discuss several Arab issues including the Arab-Israeli dispute, the Lebanese crisis, the Iraqi-Iranian dispute, Arab regional groupings, and human rights in the Arab World, according to Sharaf. She said the conference would present views and solutions on these issues so as to help Arab officials adopt suitable decisions. Over a hundred political scientists, researchers, and politicians from various Arab countries will participate in the conference.

NANY FOR CYPRUS

A nany and domestic helper needed to work for a Lebanese family in Limassol, Cyprus. Age between 25-30 with good English. The contract will be for 2 years. Post is open until end of March. Applicants submit with personal date and photo to the address below:

Attn. Mrs. Nataly; P.O. Box 6590, Limassol, Cyprus.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of posters entitled "The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr." at Yarmouk University.
- ★ Exhibition of oils and watercolours by Jordanian artist Youssef Baddawi at the gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental — 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Hassan Jalal at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading Industrial and Commercial Company in Saudi Arabia has the following job opening: -

* BUSINESS SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT *

This is a challenging position which involves assisting the operating entities in the evaluation and development of the appropriate business decisions that facilitate consolidation and continuous improvement of their marketing position, effectiveness and ultimate leadership. The position will also assist in the proper execution of new projects both industrial and commercial. The candidate must have a University Degree in Marketing or Financial Management. Should be bilingual and familiar with PC hardware and software. Previous experience in Business Consultancy with speciality in Marketing and Financial analysis is essential. In addition to the competitive salary, the company is offering an attractive benefit package which includes housing allowance, medical insurance coverage, an annual paid leave of one full month, a company car and one annual round trip airticket to and from domicile.

To apply, please send full career and salary details to:

PERSONNEL MANAGER
P.O. BOX 830351
AMMAN / JORDAN

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A leading Industrial and Commercial Company in Saudi Arabia has the following job opening: -

* ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT / ANALYST *

A combination of administrative and database skills is required by the company, seeking someone to provide administrative services, data entry support, maintenance of automated files systems and analytical and research support to the department. The candidate must have a BA in Business Administration or B.Sc. in Computer Science. Should be fluent in Arabic and has the ability to write lucid reports in English. Familiarity with PC hardware and software with experience especially proficiency in word processing and office automation is essential. Related work experience is desirable.

In addition to the competitive salary, the company is offering an attractive benefit package which includes housing allowance, medical insurance coverage, an annual paid leave of one full month, a company car and one annual round trip airticket to and from domicile. To apply, please send full career and salary details to:

PERSONNEL MANAGER
P.O. BOX 830351
AMMAN / JORDAN

PLO office name change

(Continued from page 1)

discussed this with Hurd during their meeting.

"We are hoping for American, Soviet and European concrete steps to prevent the settling of Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza and in East Jerusalem," he said.

Abu Sharif said the PLO remained committed to establishing peace in the Middle East although it regarded moving Soviet immigrants into "appropriated Palestinian land" as an act of war.

Israel expects up to 100,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants this year. Only a fraction of the new arrivals have settled in the occupied territories — about 0.5 per cent of all immigrants in 1989 went there directly, according to Israeli statistics.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Thursday promised an early decision about whether he would accept U.S. proposals for talks with Palestinians. U.S. efforts to begin talks in Cairo have bogged down over who should represent Palestinians.

Aoun withdraws

(Continued from page 1)

ated both leaders were determined to fight to the finish. They expected fighting to rage several more days as Aoun tried to throw the militia out of East Beirut, despite big losses among his 15,000 troops.

Dozens of apartment blocks, shops, industrial and commercial centres were set ablaze by hundreds of 130mm shells, 107mm rockets and 120mm mortar bombs.

Before the truce artillery and rocket launchers from both sides pounded the areas of Mukatis, Dora, Jdeide, Dikwanch, Ashrafieh and Karantina and the outlying villages of Beit Meri and Ain Saadeh.

Aoun's army gained little ground in its 12-hour attack on

Shamir urges Baker to reconsider

(Continued from page 1)

when Shamir said that a large immigration required "the land of Israel, a large and strong Israel," suggesting that the Jewish state would retain the territories to accommodate the new Soviet arrivals.

Shamir, however, has denied Israel has a policy of urging Soviets to settle in the occupied Arab territories, pointing out that of the 12,000 who arrived last year, only 200 settled in the West Bank or Gaza.

Finance Minister Shimon Peres, head of the Labour Party who often is at odds with the hard-line Shamir, Friday supported Shamir's statement on the settlements.

"We cannot forbid (an immigrant) to settle wherever he wants, but basically we do not intend to build new settlements in the West Bank," Peres said.

Avner Shaki, a parliament member from the National Religious Party, said Friday that Baker's remarks amounted to "an unprecedented intervention in Israel's internal affairs." Rafael Eitan, head of the right-wing Tsomet Party, urged expending the settlements.

Settlers, at an emergency meeting Thursday, called for abandoning the U.S.-mediated peace process.

"We think the trip to Cairo (for preliminary talks) is like pregnancy," said settler activist Aaron Domb. Then there would be no choice but to give birth to this baby, the Palestinian state,

the same area Thursday. Militiamen had blocked narrow roads with piles of earth and mines to impede the army's U.S.-made M48 tanks.

Reuters correspondents in hills east of the capital said ambulances raced to the battlezone alongside tanks. LF gunners landed shells only metres away from army batteries in the hills.

Christian Radio stations appealed for blood donors and said several hospitals were hit. Most of the 800,000 people remaining in the enclave spent a second day in dank underground shelters with no power and little food or water.

Battles began January 31 after Aoun ordered the LF to disarm. He demands that Geagea support his outright rejection of Hrawi, based in West Beirut.

and we want Israel not to become pregnant."

Meanwhile, Seymour Reich, head of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, told reporters Friday before leaving Israel that he would lobby to reverse Baker's idea.

"We think this is counterproductive," Reich said. "This is the wrong time for the United States to review its concern about settlements, with Israelis engaged in a peace process which has divided the country and forced the prime minister to take risks."

Officials close to Shamir said Friday the increasing U.S. pressure on Israel had reduced the chances it would agree to begin peace talks with Palestinians.

"The message we got from Baker is very, very counter-productive and we can't accept it," said Yossi Olmert, the Shamir-appointed head of the government press office.

"The prime minister is fighting in order to save the peace process," Olmert said. "He doesn't need that kind of message at a time like this."

A highly placed official close to the prime minister's office who asked not to be named told Reuters: "It's not conducive to continue with the process."

Shamir officials expressed confusion at the timing of the U.S. statement, which demonstrated American financial leverage and placed responsibility for the future of peace talks on Israel.

"It obviously does not make matters more easy for those who have to decide," said Avi Pazner, spokesman for Shamir. "It is really a curious timing... the result may be counterproductive."

Israeli officials expressed concern that the linkage of U.S. aid to policy changes could be extended to other areas. Israel receives \$3 billion of U.S. assistance annually, more than any other country.

'Gulf understands Jordan's needs'

(Continued from page 1)

the nation along the longest confrontation lines with the common enemy.

The King also expressed appreciation of Radio Jordan's staff and radio programmes which, he said, now reach all parts of the Arab World.

The King pledged that he will remain steadfast in exerting all

efforts to help fulfil the objectives of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) and the aspirations of the Arab Nation.

Referring to the Jordanian expatriates living and working in the Gulf states which he was visiting, the King said he was impressed by the care, respect and appreciation given to them by the governments and the people of the Gulf states.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 678141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Save Lebanon

THE renewed savage fighting between the rival forces of General Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea spells continued disaster for the already embattled Christian enclave in Lebanon. Aoun appears to be bent on dislodging Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia from the entire Christian enclave come what may. Meanwhile, the Lebanese people are paying for this bitter gamble with their blood and property. What is even more tragic is the fact that the rest of the international community appears to be helpless in containing and stopping it. The Arab League's efforts, on which much hope was pinned in the past, also appears to have reached a dead end. The more one looks on the Lebanese situation the more it looks like a fire raging out of control that may not terminate till the human timber is totally burnt out.

Yet, as formidable as the Lebanese conflict is, there is no doubt that the tragedy there persists unabated simply because the Lebanese players have been receiving different and conflicting signals from the Arab and international parties with stakes in the Lebanese drama. If only the Arab countries could speak with one tongue and intention, the beginning of the end of the Lebanese bloodletting can be much closer. There is no doubt that after more than one decade and a half, Arab inner thoughts and intentions on Lebanon are diametrically opposed to one another. Then enter the foreign players on top of which is of course Israel which enjoys a very high profile in the determination of the domestic show of force in the country.

Against this backdrop, one may still offer the Arab summit formula as a panacea to deep-rooted Arab divisions on Lebanon if it was not the fact that so many Arab summits were convened in vain in the past to find a solution to our bleeding sister's crisis. It is doubtful that another Arab summit would succeed where all the previous ones had failed. Yet, the Lebanese people are running out of options, whether real or imaginary, and there is no harm in trying once again the Arab summit avenue. After all, Lebanon is one of the primary subjects on the agenda of the projected Arab summit and much good may still come of it this time around. The Arab World must not keep one stone unturned in their bid to halt the hemorrhaging in Lebanon, and the next Arab summit may still surprise everyone within and outside. This miracle has now an opportunity to occur if for no reason other than the dramatic changes between East and West. These changes must cause the Arab players to play their cards differently and rationally. Otherwise the Arab World would substantiate the hypothesis that the Arab Nation has yet to learn from the breathtaking changes and reformations sweeping across the face of the world.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday cast a gloomy outlook on the prospects of the projected Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and said that as long as the Israeli leaders are adamant in their position, there can be no fruitful outcome of such enterprise. The paper said should this dialogue materialise after all, it can by no means indicate that the Palestinians are about to recover their usurped rights and it will by no means indicate that the dangers facing the Arab Nation have now started to recede. The Palestinians hope against hope that Israel will retreat from its present position and allow them to establish their entity in the occupied territories, but the Israeli leaders are adamant, and do not want to allow them to do that, said the paper. There is no alternative to collective Arab stand and joint action on the part of the whole Arab Nation in view of the dangers in Palestine, the paper added. It said that statements by U.S. officials that the dialogue is about to begin can by no means call for optimism nor can it reestablish American credibility in the Arab World. Only through forcing the Israelis to withdraw from Arab lands and recognise the full rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland, can the United States achieve progress in the peace process, said the paper. It said that the projected dialogue is no more than a theatrical performance on the part of the U.S.-Israeli alliance to avoid delving into the real problem, and a solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Concern on the part of the Jordanian public, specially the limited income groups, over the prospect of having to pay more for oil products is discussed by Al Ra'i columnist Salah Abdul Samad. The writer refers to a memorandum sent to the government by the union of petrol stations in Jordan demanding that they be allowed to raise their profits on sales of fuel to the public to 15 per cent similar to a measure being practiced by the supply merchants in Jordan. Should the government allow the petrol stations to do that, then the margin of their profits is bound to rise from 225 fils per JD 1 worth of fuel to 180 fils, says the writer. If this is allowed to materialise, then the limited income groups who now face hardships due to soaring prices of various commodities, will suffer most, the writer notes. It should be noted that the merchants selling other forms of goods to the public are the importers, wholesalers and retail merchants, each of which makes five per cent in profits on their sales; and so the memorandum is based on totally wrong calculations, says Abdul Samad. He notes that the petrol stations are making good profits on their sales of fuel, specially kerosene and gasoline; and if anything, they themselves should be making some sacrifice to help their country adjust to the present economic conditions. The writer notes that the concerned authorities have been receiving more and more applications by investors to open petrol stations around the country; which he says, means that indeed such stations make good profit, which does not justify the union's demands as contained in the memorandum sent to the government.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the huge demonstration staged by the Arab people of Palestine occupied since 1948. These Palestinians have always been feeling inferior to the Jews living in Palestine, and even those newcomers being settled on the occupied Arab territory, said the paper. Despite the fact that they are considered Israeli citizens, these Palestinians do not enjoy any freedom, and they lack the proper means of decent living.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

'Marxism: End of ideology?'

AN Arabic proverb proclaims that: "There are always many butchers when the cow falls..." Why has the Communist cow, ostensibly being fattened for the past seventy years fallen, will be a question that social scientists, will no doubt ponder for a very long time to come. One Francis Fukuyama, an American political scientist, in an article entitled, "End of History?" (National Interest, Summer, 1989) declares the total demise of socialism and the final triumph of political and economic liberalism. In the 1940's it was another American, Daniel Bell who wrote a book with the curious title, The End of Ideology. As hindsight indicates, ideology is anything but dead. It is certainly alive in the United States as it is in Iran or elsewhere in the world. It is always fascinating to ponder from whence do these prophets of doom emerge. And curiously they are almost always wrong. Yet what is happening in the Soviet Union as well as in China, Cuba, East Europe, is certainly dramatic. What caused the giant to crumble? Was it from internal centrifugal or external forces that caused what is happening now? Indeed, what is happening now? Just a few months ago the Soviet, or was it the Eastern bloc, looked so formidable and solid. That is, or we thought it was, a fact. Are facts really stupid things, as former President Reagan unintelligently once remarked? But then it is a truism that men have been known to change facts or create them. Mikhail Gorbachev is doing just that and in doing so he is bowing before the logic of history, of life as well as changing circumstances. To begin with it should be emphasised that Marxism did not fail. What failed, indeed atonised, is Communism. Marxism, or the Marxist theory, as a set of principles, an ideology proffered to alleviate the ills of mankind and achieve a certain justice based on economic materialism will remain for a very long time to come. It

will be studied and debated as yet another human attempt to change society along certain lines. As an idea then it will survive and will no doubt continue to inflame the imagination of certain segments of mankind. As a Western off-shoot of the humanist tradition it will always be one of the two or three great ideas that Western civilisation has exported in the last few centuries. The other two great ideas being human rights and political and economic liberal systems based on the rationality of the average man.

Communism failed as a system of government, in ordering of the social order precisely because it denied not only human rights and reason but the human spirit and spirituality altogether. The Communist state became so infatuated with efficiency and stability above all else, that it killed or nearly killed the very human beings it set out to serve. Double talk and double thought replaced reason and humanity. Joseph Stalin in particular elevated ideology above life and attempted to recreate a society very much resembling a bee hive. He never seemed to have realised that bees are not men. He set out to fashion life after the ideology rather than the other way around. And as usually happens with all such attempts throughout time the — ism, the ideology becomes an end in itself rather than a means to an end. A hardening of the social and intellectual arteries sets in until the — ism becomes devoid of content and turns into mere dogma and ceremony.

It is here that the delicate balance becomes lost: the balance between individual freedom, necessary for innovation, and social stability. It is when such a happening takes place that government becomes stronger than those it governs and they in turn become reduced to mere automatons. What Mr. Gorbachev is attempting,

though one may question his methods, is a reconciliation between the needs of the society and those of the individual. The earlier Stalinist totalitarianism, attempting to control not only man's actions but his very thoughts and inner beliefs as well, must be humanised taking into consideration what the Lord from Galilee once said: "Not by bread alone." Indeed Mr. Gorbachev is seeking that flexible relationship, that equation that balances individual freedom with social right and where neither is supreme nor claims supremacy over the others.

The Soviet state attempted a totalitarian system of government that brought about not the freedom that Marx dreamt about, but its very antithesis. It so crowded the individual that he stopped thinking causing the problems that the Soviet Union now undergoes. Gorbachev rightly asks, though almost in agony: "How can you move a people to think for themselves when the government has been thinking for them for the past seventy years?" A question, indeed a desperate cry that we in the Arab World should also ponder.

The historical perspective is imperative should one truly attempt to understand what is currently happening in the "East". Gorbachev may fail and may prove to be yet another footnote, another wrinkle in the turbulent history of Russia. And then again, he may prove to be another star arising from the East. His actions today have been dictated by the painfully tortuous path of Soviet history in this century. In examining what is now taking place we may learn a lesson. For whatever may be the fate of Mikhail Gorbachev be, one thing is starkly clear: the man is courageous. It is that rare courage of the honest thinking man that sees that he was mistaken and has the courage to change course instead of maintaining the fetters around his neck.

Jewish influx worries Muslim World

By Assem Hassan
Reuters

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's political reforms pose an acute dilemma for leaders of the world's one billion Muslims.

They welcome Gorbachev's perestroika (restructuring) and glasnost (openness) because they make for a better life for Muslim communities in the Soviet Union.

But the prospect of a mass exodus of Soviet Jews, mainly to Israel, strikes at the heart of traditional Muslim support for the Palestinian struggle for national rights.

Political analysts say Muslims and Arabs are trying not to antagonise their traditional allies in Moscow in any way that might adversely affect Muslims living in the Soviet Union, while seeking to ward off the spectre of a "greater Israel" made possible by a sudden influx of Jews.

"I must say that we are satisfied with perestroika... enabling (Soviet) Muslims to express their views and practice their rites," said Hamid Al Ghabid, secretary-general of the 46-member Islamic Conference Organisation (ICO). But he told a news conference

in Jeddah this month that Jewish emigration was "the most serious situation which the (Middle East) region faces now and in the future as it is intended to bring about a basic demographic change."

Muslim countries fear the 1.7 million Palestinians living under Israeli occupation may eventually be swamped by Israeli settlements, reinforced by a huge influx of Soviet Jews.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Muslim world view the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank as the site of a future Palestinian state.

The PLO this week warned that Israel's settlement of 200 Soviet Jewish immigrants near the West Bank town of Nablus was "an act of war" which would provoke retaliation.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat told reporters in Tunis that resettlement in the Gaza Strip and West Bank might drive the PLO back to militancy.

"It is very dangerous. We were told that it was out of the question... we will continue to work for peace but if no practical steps are taken by the superpowers, we will have to think of ways and means of defending our land," he

said. In an apparent concession to Muslim and Arab fears, Soviet envoy Gennady Tarasov told reporters in Tunis earlier this month that Moscow did not intend to allow direct flights to Israel, but ruled out curbs on the Jewish exodus.

Moscow has called for a U.N. Security Council meeting on the issue. Israeli officials, who expect 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews this year and up to 750,000 over the next five or six years, say that without direct flights some may have to wait up to one year to leave the Soviet Union for Israel.

Israel says it has no official policy of settling the Soviet Jews in the occupied territories and allows them to settle where they wish. Muslim ministers meeting in Jeddah this month to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ICO were at pains to draw a distinction between the greater freedom of worship available in the Soviet Union and their condemnation of Jewish emigration.

They heard Sheikh Talaat Tajuddin, mufti of European Russia and Siberia, refer in glowing terms to a perestroika that had

"helped open new horizons to deepen the Islamic resurrection in the Soviet Union."

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the current ICO chairman, struck a note of compromise by suggesting that the human rights of the Palestinians should be equally represented with those of Jews.

Muslims have long held the view that the right of Jews to settle in Israel has to be set against the right of Palestinians to settle in their own land.

The Kuwaiti emir, in a message read on his behalf at the ICO meeting, said Jewish emigration was "the most serious decision (taken) against the Arab Palestinian people on which the two superpowers agreed and by which they are ending the 20th century."

He said decision-makers were talking about Jewish rights to settle anywhere "but they do not talk about Palestinian human rights in their country and the land of their fathers." He hoped that "those who made Soviet Jewish emigration (possible) and helped direct it to Palestine will reconsider, taking Arab rights into account."

East Europe's press discovers the high price of freedom

By Juliet Towhidi
Reuters

PARIS — Journalists trying to set up a free press in Eastern Europe must overcome years of mental laziness as well as a shortage of newspaper, editors from the old East bloc nations said last week.

Naivety and lack of curiosity are obstacles as large as state censorship used to be, the editors from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and Romania said at a two-day meeting with their Western counterparts.

"We are too used to living in dependence. Journalists have to begin by setting aside the stereotyped language they used before," said Ernest Salski, editor-in-chief of Poland's Solidarity newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza.

The English and American press distinguishes news from comment. Our journalists have a tradition of mixing the two," he said. "We are damaged psychologically, sometimes naive, sometimes suspicious, not interested enough in the affairs of others," he added.

"What faces us now is far more complex and difficult than years spent in opposition," said Miroslav Filip, editor of the Czech magazine Reporter. "We have to generate the future instead of receiving ideas from above."

Speakers on the first day of the conference, organised by the United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organisation UNESCO said they were eager to set up training programmes with Western help to end years of

Communist indoctrination. But the most pressing problems are practical ones. Many newspapers do not have enough paper on which to print the words to express their new-found freedom.

"Lack of the most basic equipment poses a real threat to the democratic process," said Calin Popescu-Tariceanu of Liberal, organ of Romania's opposition Liberal Party. "We have had to cut back our circulation, which means we only have a limited impact on the country," he said.

Many newspapers were born in the midst of the recent upheavals which toppled Communist regimes and became the first in decades to function independently. The first edition of the Romanian paper Free Youth was on the streets of Bucharest five hours after dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was deposed on December 22, editor Auca Munteanu said.

But lack of resources and training meant many of the new titles disappeared just as quickly, a danger that still existed, said Wojciech Giszynski, editor of Poland's Tygodnik Solidarnosc newspaper. "It is still possible that we may lose the war against Communism," he warned.

Many of the editors said they had to publish weekly rather than daily editions because their printing systems took up to three days to complete a single edition. Munteanu said journalists on her newspaper were writing their articles by hand, then printing them on manually-operated machinery more than 40 years old.

ANC farmers wait to be called home

By Brendan Boye
Reuters

CHONGELA, Zambia — ANC veteran Lenford Ganyile is waiting for Nelson Mandela to tell him it's time to go home after 31 years in exile from South Africa.

Until then he helps to tend a giant breeding boar called de Klerk on a farm run by the African National Congress (ANC), about 30 kilometres outside Lusaka.

Ganyile, 55, was among hundreds of ANC exiles in Zambia who this week welcomed Mandela, a revered NC leader, on his first trip abroad since his release on February 11 after 27 years in prison.

"My place is in South Africa. When Mandela tells me it is time, I will go. I want to carry on my work to politicise the people to oppose apartheid," he said in an interview.

"Mandela sent me from Soweto to Pondoland in 1957 to organise protest against apartheid and that is where I was arrested. I want to go back and carry on the work Mandela sent me to do."

Pondoland is part of the nominally independent tribal homeland of Transkei, where military leader General Bantu Holomisa has still to match South African President F.W. de Klerk's decision on February 2 to lift a 30-year-old ban on the ANC.

Ganyile and his co-manager of the ANC's Chongela farm, 59-year-old James Chirwa, were friends and colleagues of Mandela before the black nationalist leader was jailed in 1962 and later sentenced to life imprisonment for plotting against white rule.

Chirwa, "uncle Jimmy" to the dozen young ANC exiles studying agricultural methods at Chongela, spent 10 years with Mandela on Robben Island, the South African prison off Cape Town.

Now Chirwa and Ganyile are counting the days until they can end their exile and go back to South Africa.

"A man cannot be happy away from his home. That is my place, they are my people. I want to go back," said Ganyile, who wants to recruit blacks and whites to the anti-apartheid cause.

Chirwa wants to see his family and get a job, probably as a farmer: "I want to feed the people of South Africa. That is politics, too."

The fate of the ANC's 3,500

hectare farm is undecided following de Klerk's about-face on 40 years of fierce white resistance to black aspirations in South Africa.

It might eventually be sold to raise funds for a similar training facility inside South Africa, but ANC officials said no changes were likely until it was clear that de Klerk's reforms were genuine and lasting.

"The farm was started in 1978 to produce food for our cadres here in Zambia and at the camps in Angola," said Moses Masiboko, a Soviet-trained agricultural scientist who heads the cooperative farm's management.

"As the farm was developing we thought it should also serve as a teaching aid to the people who want to make agriculture their career. A free South Africa is going to need farmers," he said.

Set in lush semi-tropical greenery at the end of a rutted dirt road north of Lusaka, the farm produces about 3,500 litres of milk a month as well as 25 pigs and 10 cows for slaughter.

"We send the milk and the meat to the ANC people in Lusaka. The surplus we sell," said Masiboko.

"We grow maize and sunflowers and soya beans and we ship tonnes of vegetables to our people in Angola and sometimes in Tanzania," he said.

Like his older colleagues, Masiboko is unashamedly eager to return to South Africa and pick up where he left off when police knocked on his door in 1976 and warned him he was about to be arrested.

He was a university activist in Johannesburg during the 1976 black student uprising that triggered nationwide unrest in which hundreds of children died.

Masiboko fled through Swaziland after police detained him and showed him the blood-stained walls of an interrogation cell.

"They told me they would kill me, too, in that cell. I was very frightened, so when they let me out under house arrest I just ran and ran."

"The Zambian people open their hearts and their arms to everyone. Being here is not like being in Europe, there is a sense of African solidarity that binds us."

"But still you feel like a foreigner and you long for your own home and your own culture and

people. You are always a South African," he said.

Masiboko studied agriculture in Moscow for almost six years. During this time in exile, he has visited every continent to lecture and study. He speaks eight languages.

"The South Africans are beginning to see that we are all the same, we are all equal. I think that is why they are changing from their years of oppression to

begin to accept us."

"We must all learn to share and we must all learn to trust," he said.

Ganyile agreed as he thumped the rump of a pig for emphasis: "If we had been together all these years instead of fighting, with us in exile and them (the whites) there in South Africa, we could have been the strongest nation in the world, because we are the best."

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



LA SEMAINE...

de Suleiman Sweiss

L'histoire d'un nouveau né

Agé de 40 ans, Suleiman Sweiss est sociologue de formation, diplômé de l'université de Paris-Sorbonne. Jordanien francophone, il enseigne le français à Amman. Il collabore également aux journaux en langue arabe, ainsi qu'au "Jourdain" depuis sa création. Désormais, vous retrouverez sa rubrique hebdomadaire, commentaire d'un événement politique ou social saillant de la semaine écoulée, sinon attendu dans les jours à venir.



Ça y est! Une section jordanienne de l'Organisation arabe des droits de l'Homme (OADH) vient d'être autorisée par Salem Masa'adeh, vice-premier ministre et ministre de l'Intérieur.

C'est une première dans un pays du Machreq arabe. Nous, les Jordaniens, devons nous féliciter de cet événement. D'autant plus que des informations, certes non encore confirmées, circulent, selon lesquelles Amnesty International obtiendrait prochainement pareille autorisation.

Le projet de création d'une section de l'OADH est vieux d'au moins cinq ans. Début 1985, quelques dizaines de personnalités et de militants des droits de l'Homme avaient formé un "comité constitutif". Ce dernier avait aussitôt lancé une campagne de collectes de fonds pour soutenir financièrement l'action de l'OADH, créée fin 1983 à Chypre.

En février 1989, le président de l'OADH, Adib Jader, alors en visite en Jordanie, avait été reçu à Amman par le roi Hussein. En novembre dernier, une assemblée consultative avait tenu une réunion semi-officielle. Quelque cent trente membres avaient à cette occasion élu les délégués de la future section nationale auprès de l'Assemblée générale de l'OADH, prévue cette semaine à Tunis.

L'évolution de la situation politique intérieure du royaume depuis avril 1989, et particulièrement les élections législatives de novembre ont bien sûr joué un grand rôle dans cette naissance. Elles figurent même en tête des facteurs décisifs, qui ont fait du rêve de 1985 la réalité de 1990.

Au cours de la campagne électorale, la revendication des libertés publiques se révélait très forte. Depuis, un grand nombre de députés ont insisté sur la priorité de lever les lois martiales et de mettre un terme aux entorses faites aux droits

de l'Homme. La jeune Chambre a ainsi formé un comité pour "les libertés et les droits du citoyen". Enfin, les mesures de libéralisation prises par le gouvernement de Moudar Badrane donnaient elles aussi des signes encourageants.

Reste à savoir combien de temps va durer la joie des membres de la nouvelle section, car l'heure de la vérité a sonné. Il s'agit dorénavant de bien défendre les droits de l'Homme. Et si ces derniers sont en progression, il reste beaucoup de travail à faire. Qu'il suffise de rappeler les pratiques du pouvoir exécutif sous les lois martiales.

Tout récemment, l'Ordre des avocats a adressé au premier ministre une lettre de protestation contre un certain nombre de violations des droits de l'Homme. Parallèlement, la refonte totale de bon nombre de lois et règlements incompatibles avec ces droits figure à l'ordre du jour des travaux de l'Assemblée nationale.

La section jordanienne de l'OADH n'a pas été conçue pour traiter de tels dossiers. A l'image de la direction centrale de l'organisation panarabe, qui, d'habitude, évoque avec les autorités de chaque pays les violations signalées par les militants nationaux.

Quand et comment le lui faire dépasser? En a-t-elle la volonté, sinon les moyens? Et si jamais les activités de cette section "généraliste" les autorités, quel serait son avenir? Comment éviter les éventuelles accusations d'"ingérence" dans les affaires intérieures du pays?

On le voit, beaucoup de questions demeurent encore, tant l'ère d'ouverture politique est encore jeune et incertaine. Mais pourquoi ne pas être optimiste et, pour l'heure, ne pas fêter l'avènement d'un nouveau né tant attendu?

Hana Beraudo présentait hier sa collection printemps-été 1990

Un style passionnément arabe

Ample robes longues de soie ou de coton brodées ou brocades, inspirées de la tradition arabe; vestes aux coupes cintrées, évoquant le vêtement circassien; chemises aux coupes originales, portées sous des boléros; le tout dans des coloris tantôt tendres et fondus, tantôt vifs et contrastés... Les 87 pièces de la collection printemps-été 1990 d'Hana Beraudo avaient de quoi séduire le public, hier soir dans les salons de l'hôtel Plaza d'Amman.

Présentées par 20 mannequins amateurs, formées au pied levé en quelques semaines, les dernières créations de la styliste irakienne ont redonné une fois encore la passion qu'elle entretient avec la confection traditionnelle dans le monde arabe. Il est en effet difficile de nommer autrement 20 années de voyages et d'études assidues, consacrées à l'art antérieur ou postérieur à l'islamisation de cette région du monde.

Une fibre artistique

Cet intérêt résulte d'abord de la fibre artistique, qui habite Hana Beraudo depuis sa plus tendre enfance. Née à Bagdad, elle s'est découverte très vite un goût profond pour le dessin, que ses parents ont encouragé à leur manière. "Ma mère, comme ma grand-mère, étaient couturières. Elles m'ont appris à dessiner et à fabriquer des vêtements", précise-t-elle, dans un français irréprochable, appris à l'université, où elle a consacré ses études à la littérature de l'Hexagone.

A cette époque cependant, la jeune femme penchait plus pour la peinture que pour la confection. Elève de grands peintres irakiens, elle a fait son chemin dans le monde artistique, effectuant de temps à autre un voyage à Paris, "centre des arts", assure-t-elle, et rencontré le succès. Mais pas encore l'univers qu'il lui fallait. "Ça marchait bien, mais la peinture ne me donnait pas de satisfaction complète".

De fait, le "démon" de la mode était en train de se faire sa place dans l'itinéraire d'Hana. A défaut de l'orienter déjà définitivement, il commençait à poser ses jalons. Installée à Paris de 1970 à 1973, elle s'est initiée notamment auprès d'un maître russe à la peinture sur soie. "Je me suis mise ensuite à peindre des miniatures sur le même tissu, puis à styliser des cravates", se souvient-elle.

Mariée à un Français, Hana Beraudo n'avait pourtant pas oublié ses origines. Bien au contraire. "C'est dans ces années là que j'ai commencé à voyager dans les pays arabes, à la recherche d'un art en voie de disparition", explique-t-elle. Sa quête principale: les vêtements traditionnels,

Hana Sadiq Beraudo présentait hier soir sa collection printemps-été dans les salons de l'hôtel Plaza à Amman. Quatre vingt-sept créations pour femmes ont été montrées au public. A l'instar des quatre autres défilés, que la styliste d'origine irakienne a organisés dans le royaume depuis 1987, l'édition 1990 joue avec les couleurs et les formes du vêtement traditionnel arabe. Parce que c'est une passion déjà longue de 20 ans. Une passion, que la créatrice de mode, installée en Jordanie depuis 8 ans, a encore bien du mal à communiquer.

mais aussi les bijoux en argent. "Je possède aujourd'hui l'une des collections les plus importantes, riches de plus de 500 bijoux arabes". Collection, à laquelle s'ajoutent quelque 200 robes anciennes, achetées dans presque tous les pays du Maghreb et du Mashreq. "Il n'y a guère qu'en Algérie, en Libye et à Oman, où je ne sois pas allée", assure-t-elle.

Contrairement à la plupart des collectionneurs, Hana ne thésaurise pas pour thésauriser. Les trésors qu'elle a découverts ici et là en 20 années ont alimenté son désir d'apprendre et de sauver un héritage artistique. "C'est comme ça que m'est venue l'idée de devenir styliste, lache-t-elle. Parce que les femmes considèrent qu'être civilisées rime avec être habillées à l'europpéenne. C'est typique des pays du tiers monde d'ailleurs".

Avant de prendre les ciseaux et la craie, Hana Beraudo a d'abord empoigné son bâton de pèlerin. "Peu après m'être fixée à Amman, il y a huit ans, j'ai donné des conférences, notamment dans les facultés, pour rappeler la richesse du passé artistique arabe, la beauté des vêtements, des bijoux, du maquillage..."

Joignant rapidement le geste à la parole, elle c'est ensuite lancée dans ses premières créations. "Je me suis fabriqué des robes, pour moi-même. Puis des amies m'ont demandé d'en faire pour elles". La styliste était en train de naître. fin prête dès 1987 à présenter sa première collection.

"Mes vêtements sont modernes, adaptés à la femme d'aujourd'hui, qui travaille, qui conduit... Mais ils sont inspirés des habits traditionnels et taillés dans des tissus naturels, comme on le faisait autrefois. La soie, le coton, le lin et la laine étaient produits ici et j'essais d'encourager des usines arabes à maintenir cette production".

Commercialisation timide

Hana Beraudo a signé cinq collections en moins de trois ans. Preuve d'un pari réussi? Artistiquement, c'est encourageant. Les vêtements plaisent. Mais la vente pose problème. Quand l'épouse

de l'ambassadeur de France est devenue ma cliente en 1987, d'autres ont suivi. Beaucoup de Jordaniennes cependant ne comprennent pas qu'il s'agit de créations et discutent les prix", reconnaît-elle. Des prix, qui, dans l'ensemble, sont pourtant raisonnables et s'étagent entre 20 et 500 dinars.

Plus curieux est sans doute la remarquable placidité des boutiques d'Amman. "Aucun détaillant ne m'a contactée pour vendre mes produits. Ils ne viennent même pas aux défilés. Et comme je n'ai pas les moyens d'ouvrir un magasin, c'est chez moi que les clients doivent venir pour acheter".

Le déplacement vaut certes la peine, tant la maison des Beraudo offre à voir, depuis les tableaux, jusqu'aux tapis rares, en passant par les meubles et les bijoux raffinés. Mais il témoigne aussi des difficultés que rencontre la créatrice de mode à faire connaître ses créations. "J'ai même du mal à trouver des photographes pour présenter



mon travail," confesse-t-elle.

Ces difficultés deviennent autant de sérieux handicaps, quand il s'agit pour elle de présenter ses vêtements à l'étranger. "En 1989, j'ai pu organiser des défilés en Irak, au Koweït, à Abou Dhabi ainsi qu'en Grèce, précise la styliste, mais je n'y vends pas en boutique. J'espère par ailleurs pouvoir faire quelque chose l'an prochain à Paris, à l'Institut du Monde Arabe". Pour l'heure, les seules "ambassadrices" de sa griffe restent ses clientes. Parfois de marque, il est vrai. A l'ouverture du festival de Jérash 1989, la reine Noor portait une robe signée Hana Beraudo.

Alain Renon.

L'IFAPO s'expose

Si vous voulez en savoir plus sur l'état des recherches de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie du Proche-Orient (IFAPO), vous aurez une petite semaine, du 4 au 10 mars, pour vous promener dans deux expositions, installées à l'université de Jordanie. Deux expositions qui veulent faire le point sur les contributions étrangères à l'archéologie jordanienne.

Cette seconde exposition présente d'une part une synthèse des recherches correspondant à la période traitée par le congrès (750 à 1050 de notre ère), et d'autre part les travaux spécifiques des participants, soit, outre les Français, les Britanniques, les Américains et les Allemands.

L'occasion pour les non-initiés d'apprécier les produits de la collaboration franco-jordanienne... à Jérash, avec notamment la restauration du temple de Zeus, à Irak El Emir, seul monument hellénistique trouvé en Jordanie; ou encore au château d'Amra, dont les fresques sont redessinées grandeur nature.

F.M.

EN BREF

Tournée. Le roi Hussein a achevé jeudi à Abou Dhabi une tournée officielle de quatre jours dans le Golfe. Au cours de son voyage, qui l'a mené depuis lundi successivement au Koweït, à Bahrein et au Qatar, le souverain achémite s'est entretenu avec ses hôtes des résultats du dernier sommet du Conseil de coopération arabe. Il y a une semaine à Amman. Il a également évoqué la nécessité d'un sommet de la Ligue arabe essentiellement consacré à l'immigration des juifs soviétiques en Israël. Le roi, qui était notamment accompagné par le premier ministre, Moudar Badrane, aurait également examiné pendant sa visite les difficultés économiques et financières du royaume.

Changeurs. Les bureaux de change indépendants de Jordanie, fermés depuis février 1989, devraient réouvrir leurs guichets "dans les semaines à venir" après le vote d'une nouvelle loi par la Chambre des députés, attendue avant la fin de la session parlementaire le 27 mars, a révisé jeudi l'hebdomadaire "The Star". Les licences, selon le journal, seront délivrées chaque année et les changeurs devront notamment verser une oblige équivalente à 3% de leur capital à la Banque centrale pour reprendre leur activité.

Victoire. Les équipages jordaniens du "Falcon of Jordan" et suisse du "Pilatus" ont remporté dans leurs catégories respectives, appareils à moteur à piston et turbopropulseurs, la course aérienne Paris-Langkawi-Paris, qui s'est achevée dans la nuit de mardi à mercredi à Toussus-le-Noble, près de Paris. Eric Ledger, pilote personnel du roi Hussein, et Rakan Nasser, qui étaient aux commandes du "Falcon of Jordan", ont précédé l'équipage français du "Manpower". Ils ont été félicités à leur arrivée en France par la reine Noor et se sont vu remettre un prix de 100.000 francs. Onze concurrents ont fini l'épreuve sur les treize, qui s'étaient envolés le 5 février de Toussus-le-Noble, après des escales à Bahrein, Dacca, Langkawi, Singapour, New Delhi, Dubaï et Amman, soit 25.000 km au total. Lundi dernier, les participants et l'organisateur de la course, Bernard Lamy, avaient été reçus par l'ambassadeur de France en Jordanie, Denis Bauchard.

Immigration. Quelque 230.000 juifs soviétiques sont attendus en Israël en 1990, a annoncé mercredi la radio de l'Etat hébreu, citant "un haut fonctionnaire" qui a donné ce chiffre devant la commission des Directeurs généraux chargée de l'immigration et de l'intégration des nouveaux immigrants, réunie à Jérusalem. Par ailleurs, l'Agence juive (organisme paragon gouvernemental) a indiqué cette semaine que 9.000 d'entre eux sont arrivés en Israël depuis le début de l'année.

Nicaragua. Le président sortant nicaraguayen, Daniel Ortega, a annoncé mercredi l'instauration d'un cessez-le-feu unilatéral afin de faciliter la "démobilisation immédiate" de la guérilla antisandiniste. M. Ortega, battu dimanche aux élections présidentielles par Violeta Chamorro, la candidate de l'opposition, a également demandé aux Etats-Unis de suspendre leur aide financière à la "Contra". La passation de pouvoir entre le leader de la Révolution sandiniste de 1979 et la nouvelle présidente doit s'effectuer le 25 avril.

Propriété. Soixante-deux ans après la prise du pouvoir par les Bolcheviks, dont l'un des mots d'ordre était "Toute la terre aux paysans", le Soviet Suprême d'URSS a voté mercredi une loi donnant à tout citoyen le droit de posséder sa terre. Le texte autorise la propriété à perpétuité, la liberté de construction et d'héritage. Elle interdit cependant la vente, le don ou encore l'échange de ces biens fonciers.

Pour. 64% des Moscovites sont favorables à la réunification allemande, selon un récent sondage effectué par l'Institut de sociologie de Moscou. 24% seulement des personnes interrogées s'y opposent, alors que 54% estiment que le rapprochement entre la RFA et la RDA entraînera une amélioration des relations soviéto-allemandes.

Critiques. Le président libanais Elias Hraoui a très violemment critiqué mercredi la politique de la France au Liban, affirmant qu'elle était "responsable" des combats dans le "pays chrétien". Dans une interview radiodiffusée, M. Hraoui a notamment déclaré que Paris, "en s'opposant à une intervention pour mettre fin à la rébellion" du général Aoun, avait conduit à "la catastrophe", dans une allusion aux combats actuels. La France, comme le Vatican, se sont opposés à une intervention militaire contre Michel Aoun, qui aurait nécessité, selon les milieux diplomatiques, la participation de l'armée syrienne.

Otages. L'ancien premier ministre français conservateur, Jacques Chirac, a été accusé mercredi d'avoir menti à propos des contacts établis pour obtenir la libération, le 4 mai 1988, des otages français du Liban. Le journaliste Pierre Péan estime en effet dans un article publié par "Libération" que la France avait fait la promesse (non tenue) de verser 3 millions de dollars en échange de ses ressortissants. Bien que M. Chirac ait nié ces informations, le journaliste a affirmé que l'ancien chef du gouvernement "ment" quand il déclare n'avoir jamais entendu parler du Cheikh Abdul Monem Zein, chef de la communauté chiite du Soudan et, selon M. Péan, l'un des principaux intermédiaires de la négociation entre Paris, Téhéran et les ravisseurs. D'après "Libération", le non-paiement de cette "dette" expliquerait en partie l'attentat du 19 septembre 1989 contre un DC-10 d'UTA, qui avait fait 171 morts.

Défilé. La tempête, qui fait à nouveau rage depuis lundi en Europe, a causé la mort de plus de soixante personnes. Illustration de la violence des vents, une locomotive de 67 tonnes a été poussée en RFA sur plus d'un kilomètre par des rafales. En Grande-Bretagne, pluies et vents ont fait 18 morts, alors qu'en France, on déplorait jeudi une dizaine de victimes, notamment en Corse et en Alsace. Près de 150 personnes avaient déjà trouvé la mort en Europe au cours des précédentes tempêtes, entre le 25 janvier et le 15 février.

Coran. Un Coran du XIIIe siècle a été adjugé pour 2,1 millions de francs, soit environ 368.000 dollars, lundi à Paris lors d'une vente d'objets d'art islamiques à la salle des ventes Drouot. L'ouvrage, calligraphié à Marrakech en 1256, est relié en maroquin doré aux petits fers.

A L'AFFICHE CINEMA

Pêcheur d'Islande, de Pierre Schoendorffer, avec Charles Vanel et Jean-Claude Pascal (1989). La lutte de l'homme contre les éléments...
Don Quichotte, de Jean-Louis Bory (1989). Le roman de Cervantes...
Les quatre cents coups, de Jean-Pierre L  aud (1959). Le film de Jean-Pierre L  aud...
Les quatre cents coups, de Jean-Pierre L  aud (1959). Le film de Jean-Pierre L  aud...

All about Eve, avec Bette Davis et George Sanders. Quand une grande actrice sur le d  clin affronte la gloire montante d'une plus jeune com  dienne...
Centre de r  habilitation, dimanche 4 et jeudi 8 mars    19h00. Version anglaise.

Cin  -club. S  ances    13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 18h30 et 20h00. Nouveau film, le lundi    20h00, suivi d'un d  bat. Projection pour les jeunes, le jeudi    15h00. Th  me du mois: les nom  s pour les Oscars 1990,    travers leurs filmographies.
Samedi 3: Ishbar; Possession; L'Histoire

CONCERTS

Piano. R  cit du pianiste anglais John Clegg. Au programme: des oeuvres de Mozart, Liszt, Faur   et Rachmaninov. Centre culturel royal, lundi 5 mars    20h00. Prix des places: 4 dinars. R  servations au 660266.

EXPOSITIONS

Peinture. Le Fondation Shoman pr  sente sept peintres irakiens: Shaker Hassan al-Sa  d; Salim al-Dabbagh; Rafi al-Nassiri; Sa  di al-Ka  bi; Ali Taleb; Mohammad Mahroudin et Ismail Fatah. Centre culturel et scientifique de la Fondation Shoman (Shomman), Vernissage, mardi 6 mars    18h00. L'exposition sera ouverte jusqu'au 4 avril, tous les jours sauf le vendredi    18h00    17h00.

"Amman, Bagdad, le Caire, Sanaa". Les capitales des pays membres du CCA font l'objet d'une exposition de photos,    l'occasion du 4  me sommet du CCA, qui s'est tenu    Amman la semaine derni  re. Centre Culturel Royal, tous les jours sauf le vendredi, de 9h00    20h00, jusqu'au 4 mars. Entr  e gratuite.

"Contribution fran  aise    l'arch  ologie syrienne, 1969-1989". Exposition mont  e par l'antenne syrienne de l'IFAPO et qui retrace 20 ann  es de travaux. (Voir FOCUS). Universit   de Jordanie, de 9h00    19h00, du 4 au 10 mars.

"Panorama des contributions   trang  res    l'arch  ologie jordanienne". Exposition collective regroupant les   quipes arch  ologiques allemande, am  ricaine, britannique et fran  aise: autour de la p  riode abbasside, d'une part, et pr  sentation s  par  e des travaux sp  cifiques de chaque   quipe, d'autre part. (Voir FOCUS). Universit   de Jordanie, de 9h00    19h00, du 4 au 10 mars.

For all your:
 Packing,
 Air Freight Forwarding,
 Customs Clearance,
 Door-to-door Service,
 Ticketing and
 Reservation needs,
 please call:
AMIN KAWAR & SONS
 Abdel Hamid Sharaf Street
 Shmeisani
 P.O. Box 7806
 Amman, Jordan
 Tel. 604676, 604696

EVERY DAY
 PEOPLE WHO NEED
 MAINTENANCE
 SERVICES
 CALL US!
Electrolux
 P.O. Box 925229 AMMAN
 Tel. 604671

STUDIO HAIG
 Professional Quality in
 1 Hour Service
 Develop your color film at
 our shop and get:
 • **JUMBO photo**
 size 30% larger
 • **Free enlarge-**
 ment 20 x 30 cm
 Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays
 Bank. Phone: 604042
 Sweifich tel: 823891

For the best
 for your
 MONEY...
 ADVERTISE
 in the
Jordan Times

Saudi Real Estate
 #1
 Real Estate
 Agency
 In Town
 Rental Dept.
 Call Soha 687821/22

EASTERN
 PACKING
 DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
 INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING
 AIR & SEA FREIGHT
 TEL: 621 775 FAX: 656 270
 TLX: 23 0 23 POB: 815 408
 AMMAN-JORDAN

RESTAURANT CHINA
 The first & best
 Chinese Restaurant
 in Jordan
 1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near
 Ahlayah Girls School
 Take away is available
 Open daily 12:00-3:30
 p.m.
 6:30-Midnight
 Tel. 639968

MANDARIN
 Chinese Restaurant
 The only typical Chinese
 cuisine in Amman.
 Chinese Flaming pot is available
 Take away available
 Open daily 12:00-15:30
 18:00-23:30
 Wadi Saqra Road - near Traffic
 Bridge
 Amman, Jordan
 Tel: 661922

CHEN'S
 CHINESE
 RESTAURANT
 Mecca Street, Yarmouk
 Engineers' Housing
 Estate, near Kilo
 Supermarket
 Mongolian Barbecue for
 Lunch Friday only
 Tel: 616214
 Come and taste our
 specialties
 Open daily 12:00 - 3:30
 p.m.
 6:30 - Midnight

The First Class Hotel in
 Amman that has a
 Kitchenette in every
 room...
DAROTEL
 Amman - Tel. 668193
 P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
 Telex 23888 DAROTEL JO
 Ideal Residence For
 Expatriates and
 Businessmen

AL ALALI
 Hanta Cuisine
 Rooftop Restaurant
 Nightly
 Oryx Band &
 Oriental Belly-dancer
 Nariman Abboud
 For reservation
 call 680000-15

For the best
 for your
 MONEY...
 ADVERTISE
 in the
Jordan Times

Kashmir
 Restaurant
 FIRST CLASS INDIAN
 RESTAURANT
 Special Executive Luncheons
 Take away service
 available
 Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
 7:30-11:30 pm
 After the Philadelphia Hotel
 Towards 3rd circle
 Tel: 659519 659520

MEXICAN FOOD
 Between
 1st & 2nd
 Circles
 Jabal Amman
 Tel: 654205
 Open For
 LUNCH & DINNER

For the best
 for your
 MONEY...
 ADVERTISE
 in the
Jordan Times

MOVING?
 Let Aramex Air Cargo
 take care of the works,
 Door to Door.
 Call the friendly
 professionals on
 660507 or 660508
ARAMEX

Jordan Times
 JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Unpopular property tax enrages Britons

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's	Jumbles: ACUTE WEARY JOYFUL KINDLY
Answer:	All went and as they went, the

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Six cities vie for 1998 Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Six cities from as far apart as Asia, Europe, and the United States are vying to stage the 1998 Winter Olympics, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced Thursday. The six — Aosta, Northern Italy; Jaca, Spanish Pyrenees; Nagano, northwest of Tokyo; Oestersund, northern Sweden; Salt Lake City, Utah; and the Soviet city of Sochi, a resort on the Black Sea, had all submitted their names to the IOC by the March 1 deadline. The winner will be chosen in June 1991 at an IOC meeting in Birmingham, England.

Pro tennis tourney in E. Germany

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — A women's professional tennis tournament will be held in East Germany in September, according to published reports. A Kraft General Foods world tour event will be held in Leipzig, East Germany, Sept. 24-30, the newspaper USA Today reported. The move was approved Thursday by the Women's International Professional Tennis Council (WITA), quoted Tom Keim, director of event marketing for Kraft General Foods, told the newspaper. "For tennis, it's taking a cutting edge approach to the changes in the rest of the world, and for us, it represents our global approach to the game," Keim said. It is likely that top-ranked Steffi Graf, from West Germany, will play. "I never dreamed I would see these changes in East Germany in my life," she said. "I hope I can help some players there have the opportunities people from West Germany have."

New record in 100-metre backstroke

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan (R) — Mark Tewksbury of Canada set a world record in the 100-metre backstroke Thursday, becoming the first swimmer to break 54 seconds. Tewksbury completed two lengths of the 50-metre pool in 53.69 seconds. The previous record was 54.20 set by West German Dirk Richter in 1985.

2 weightlifters banned for life

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — Two Welsh weightlifters who were stripped of their medals at the recent Commonwealth Games after testing positive for drugs were formally banned from the sport for life Thursday. Ricky Chaplin and Gareth Hives were banned by the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association (BAWA), which said in a statement that the punishment is automatically assessed for drug use. "We have been criticised for the harshness of this law, but the rules are the rules and our members competed with the knowledge of them," said BAWA General Secretary Wally Holland. "There was no alternative decision to take."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANNAH MIRSCH
1000 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE COUNT SHOWS HOW IT'S DONE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 7 6 2		♠ Q 10 9 4 3	
♥ 8 3		♥ 7 9 4	
♦ 5 4 2		♦ K J 6 5	
♣ A K Q 10 9		♣ A K 8	
♠ J 5		♠ Q 10 9 4 3	
♥ Q 10 7 2		♥ 7 9 4	
♦ Q 3		♦ K J 6 5	
♣ J 7 6 5		♣ A K 8	
		♣ A K 6 5	
		♣ A 10 9 6	
		♣ 3 2	

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♣

If you are playing against an expert who makes a play that looks as if he peeked at your cards, it won't help to hold your hand back from the table in the future. We can assure you there was a sound reason for the line chosen.

With five prime cards, good "body" to the hand and a potential ruffing value, we think South's one-trump opening was a slight underbid. On the other hand, North deserves full praise for valuing his excellent five-card suit as enough to raise to game regardless of the strength of partner's opening.

Since declarer had nothing to fear from the opening lead, he eschewed a holdup and won in hand. A low club was led at the second trick and, when West followed with a low club, declarer finessed dummy's nine without even blinking an eye.

West guessed at South's suspiciously, and declarer quickly wrapped up 10 tricks.

Note that had South tried to run the club suit from the top, he would have been defeated by the 4-2 break when the jack did not drop. The actual line of play adopted by declarer was a safety play to guard against that possibility.

With five top-card tricks in the other three suits, declarer needed no more than four tricks from the club suit. When he took the club finesse, it was immaterial whether it won or lost—all declarer risked was a meaningless overruff. At least four club tricks were guaranteed on this line of play, since declarer still retained an entry to dummy with his second club.

A Piano Recital by JOHN CLEGG

Works by: Mozart, Liszt, Faure, Rachmaninov and others

Monday, March 5, 1990 at 8:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Centre

Tickets for JD 4 each are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 669026
- The British Council, tel. 636147
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

A combined presentation by: The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the British Council—Amman.

Cinema RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

OVER BOARD

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema CONCORD

Tel: 677420

Gene Hackman & Danny Glover... in BAT 21

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Karpov confident of defeating Jan Timman

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Internationally acclaimed chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov declared Thursday he will eventually win his tie against Dutchman Jan Timman at the "candidate final match" next week.

Speaking on arrival at the Kuala Lumpur international airport, the former world champion from Soviet Union told reporters he had the utmost confidence in edging Timman.

The match, which is the last stage of a series of worldwide elimination tournaments to select the challenger against world champion Gary Kasparov, will start March 8 at the city hall auditorium.

Karpov said he met Timman about five times last year and won all the games.

Karpov, who speaks fluent English, said Timman, the seven-time national Dutch champion, had played with him in over 50

tournaments and he had lost only three.

"Timman will always get nervous at the crucial stage and I will have no problems in clinching the title here," said the 38-year-old Karpov, who has also been a close friend of Timman for 23 years.

He said that he had been preparing seriously since last month for this tournament.

Asked about his chances against world champion Kasparov, he just smiled and said: "It is difficult for me to say at this moment, but let me pass my test here."

Karpov, the current world number two, said that he had been playing the game since he was four years old, following in his father's footsteps.

"Whenever my father is free from work, he will get some of his friends and play the game, and that is where I developed the interest," said Karpov.

UEFA imposes all-seater restriction on championship

BERNE (R) — Qualifying matches for the 1996 European championship will be all-seater, in line with the security regulations for the 1994 World Cup, the European Football Union (UEFA) said Friday.

UEFA said the decision was taken at an executive committee meeting in Paris Thursday.

Last July, the International Football Federation (FIFA) decreed for safety reasons that fans would not be allowed to stand at any qualifying games for the 1994 World Cup or at the finals in the United States.

FIFA's executive committee also decided that from 1993 all club and international matches defined as high-risk by national associations must be seating-only.

UEFA followed suit Thursday, ruling that from 1993 no specta-

tors be allowed to stand at high-risk matches in its three European club competitions.

It also decided quarterfinal ties be designated high-risk from next season. At present only semifinals and finals in the European Cup, Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup are classed high-risk.

At all other matches sales of tickets for the terraces will be reduced to 80 per cent of standing capacity and cut by a further 10 per cent each year until all European tournament matches become all-seater by the year 2000.

UEFA are to elect a new president at a congress in Malta April 19 in place of Jacques Georges of France, who is retiring. Two candidates for the post were Lemnart Johansson of Sweden and Freddy Rumo of Switzerland.

Navratilova beats Weisner

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Martina Navratilova had it easy compared to the other seeds as she beat Judith Weisner of Austria 6-3, 6-2, while three of the top eight players were upset Thursday in the third round of the \$350,000 Indian Wells Women's Tournament.

Second-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain, weakened by a virus, was upset by 11th-seeded American Amy Frazier 1-6, 6-4, 6-2, and fourth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia was beaten by unseeded American amateur Meredith McGrath 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. Hana Mandlikova of Australia, the sixth seed, was ousted by number 15 Isabelle Demongeot of France 7-5, 0-6, 6-3, putting only four of the first eight seeds into the quarterfinals of this 56-player, hardcourt tournament.

Navratilova, the top seed, took advantage of Weisner's inability to pass her at the net and remained unbeaten in 1990 with 11 match victories.

Martinez, ranked ninth in the world, was outplayed by Frazier in the third set, as the 27th-ranked American used her cross-court forehand to force Martinez into backhand errors.

After the match Martinez went to the tournament doctor, who said that she had contracted a virus and required a week of bed rest.

Frazier, who won the tournament in Wichita this year, said she is becoming more confident and hopes to move into the top 10 soon.

"I am hitting the ball really well. I think that winning a tournament gave me confidence, and I'm not really surprised when I beat someone like Conchita because I know I have to do that to get in the top 10," Frazier said. McGrath scored the day's biggest upset, beating Novotna by pressuring the Czechoslovak's serve with her returns.

Egypt reverses decision to boycott African Cup

CAIRO, Egypt (Agencies) — In an obviously political decision, Egypt announced Friday it is withdrawing its boycott and sending a team to Algeria for the African Nations Cup soccer tournament.

Despite the decision, Egypt's national team, which beat Algeria last November for one of Africa's two places in next summer's World Cup championships in Italy, will stay at home. A second-echelon team will go to Algeria.

Officials of the Egyptian Soccer Federation said the reversal came out of a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Atef Sedki. Algerian ambassador Abdul Hamid Adjali, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and officials of the Egyptian and African Soccer Federations attended the meeting.

They said Cairo changed its mind after receiving Algerian assurances about the safety of the

Egyptian team in the eight-nation tournament that opens Friday and lasts for two weeks.

They also said that African Soccer Federation officials had appealed to President Hosni Mubarak for a change of heart. The appeal was based partly on Mubarak's position as chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

Abdul Abad Gamaledin, chairman of Egypt's Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, told reporters the decision was taken "in response to the good sentiments of our Algerian and African brothers and with faith in the measures taken by the Algerian government."

When the boycott was announced last Monday, Egyptian officials said they feared that the Egyptian team would not be safe from Algerian soccer fans angered by Egypt's 1-0 victory that put it in the World Cup finals instead of Algeria.

After the November match, an Algerian player was reported to have been involved in a hotel brawl in Cairo in which an Egyptian doctor lost an eye.

The Algeria competition begins with round-robin play in two groups of four nations each, with the final scheduled for March 16. Egypt is grouped with Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Algeria. The other group comprises Kenya, Senegal, Zambia and Cameroon, Africa's other World Cup contender.

In Algiers, an official of the African Soccer Federation said the Egyptian team would arrive later Friday and would play the Ivory Coast Saturday at 4 p.m. (1500 GMT), instead of Friday night.

"The Egyptians are definitely coming," he told Reuters. The eight-nation competition kicks off at 6 p.m. with a match between Algeria and Nigeria.

Liverpool seeks to reclaim the lead

LONDON (AP) — Liverpool will have the luxury of facing a Millwall team that has won just one of its last 20 league matches as it seeks Saturday to regain the lead of the English Soccer League.

But even if the Reds win, their position atop the first division may last for only 24 hours. Current leader Aston Villa has a nationally televised game against injury-ravaged Coventry Sunday.

Liverpool starts the weekend with 50 points from 26 games, two points behind Aston Villa and seven ahead of third-place Arsenal.

The Reds had led the league from late December until Feb. 21, when Aston Villa won 2-0 at Tottenham to move into first place. But Villa was clobbered 3-0 at home last weekend by Wimbledon, keeping Liverpool

just two points behind the leaders.

Liverpool will be at home Saturday against a Millwall team that has fallen to 19th place, just one point clear of last-place Charlton, after opening the season with three victories and two ties.

"We feel we need just one good result behind us and that could spark us off again," said Millwall striker Tony Casciaro, "because we were playing a lot of good football at the start of the season and obviously we feel we're good enough to stay up in the first division."

Millwall midfielder Terry Hurlock will start a two-match suspension Saturday. His place will be taken by Gary Waddock or Darren Morgan.

Aston Villa will travel Sunday to Coventry, which is in 10th place and has scored only 24 goals

in its 25 games this season. Goalie Steve Orizovic, who has a strained calf muscle, and defender Brian Kilcline, who is nursing a twisted left knee, are doubtful for Coventry.

Defending league champion Arsenal travels across London Saturday to Queens Park Rangers, which has moved into the quarterfinals of the FA Cup and settled in the middle of the first-division standings with solid play in recent weeks. QPR has lost only two of its last 18 games.

Fourth-place Nottingham Forest will host Manchester City, which has just one victory in its last six league contests, while Manchester United hosts Luton in a battle of teams fighting to move out of relegation danger.

Southampton and Tottenham, a pair of teams that have stumbled in recent weeks, have games at home Saturday.

New leaders for ROC

BUCHAREST (R) — Two sporting legends will replace the ageing conservatives who ran Romania's Olympic Committee (ROC) during the iron rule of ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Lia Manoliu, 58, who began her Olympic career at the Helsinki games in 1952 and won her first gold medal in Mexico City 16 years later, has been elected ROC president, the committee told Reuters Tuesday.

FOR RENT MODERN FURNISHED AND UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

Three bedrooms, two living rooms, dining room, two baths, kitchen and three balconies.
Independent central heating and telephones.
Location: Shmeisani near Birds Garden.

Owner — Tel. 641443, 667862

CAR FOR SALE

1987, Daewoo, Royal Saloon, full automatic, air condition, power steering, central-lock (full options). Excellent condition.

Price: JD 9,500 cash

For more information please call 603850 after 2:00 p.m.

Mister Donut in the Kingdom

Welcomes you at its branch in the King Abdullah Gardens 24 hours a day

MISTER DONUT

MISTER DONUT/King Abdullah Gardens-Telephone 670460/Amman.

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT & SALE
Furnished or Unfurnished
In Shmeisani, Sweifish, Abdoun and many other locations.
For more information please call
Abdoun Real Estate PREVIOUSLY
Wael Real Estate
Tel: 685342, 682097

JORDAN TIMES

Tel: 667171

Cinema PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Omar Al Sharif and Murvat Amin in AL ARAGOUZ (Arabic)

Performances: 3:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15

Cinema NIJOUN

Tel: 675571

Omar Al Sharif and Murvat Amin in AL ARAGOUZ (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema PLAZA

Tel: 699238

BILOXI BLUES

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Soviets more concerned with living standards than political changes

MOSCOW (R) — Three days before elections in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Byelorussia, Soviet voters showed far more concern Friday with living standards and shortages than political change.

An opinion poll carried out by the Communist Party daily Pravda said 41 per cent of surveyed voters thought raising living standards was a main priority while only three per cent called participation in political decisions important.

Fifty-four per cent considered that "improving moral standards in society" was a major priority, while only 31 per cent put the same emphasis on "openness and free speech."

The poll, taken in Moscow and Kirov, northeast of the capital, reflected a general apathy towards Sunday's republican polls in the Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, where 80 per cent of the candidates are Communist Party members.

The party has been suffering a serious setback in public support, with mass meetings demanding the removal of local party officials considered dishonest or incompetent.

In recent weeks, local party officials have been removed or have resigned across the country, from the west Ukrainian town of Zhitomir to the Far East port of Vladivostok.

In Ukraine, the Communist Party faces a challenge from the nationalist Rukh Mass Movement, which last November pushed through changes in the republic's election law, including the scrapping of a clause giving the party a fixed quota of parliamentary seats.

Rukh is fighting the election within a "democratic bloc" of opposition groups, which are fielding candidates in virtually

every seat in the west of the republic and about half the districts in eastern and central regions.

In the east Ukrainian mining centre of Donetsk, industrial workers began a 24-hour strike Friday to demand the removal of the entire Communist Party leadership, whom they accused of failing to implement reforms.

"We want all party activists to resign ahead of the elections, so they cannot exert their influence on the results," a spokesman for the strike committee told Reuters.

The Communist youth newspaper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, reported Friday that local officials in Tula, 100 kilometres south of Moscow, had already printed announcements of the results ahead of Sunday's polls.

"They show the number of votes for candidates and the number against," the newspaper said. "Accordingly, (local party chief) Gennady Suvorov won the poll with 1,700 votes."

It said embarrassed local officials had tried to account for the faked results by saying they were printed as examples for election officials. "They forgot to stamp them with the word 'sample'," it quoted one official as saying.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Friday that latest opinion polls gave about a third of the seats in the Soviet capital to "opposition groups."

But in many cases, the large number of candidates seems likely to split the opposition vote, leaving the party's chosen candidate with a strong chance to win.

Campaigning in the capital has been low key, in contrast to last year's national elections, when Communist Party rebel Boris Yeltsin took Moscow by storm, winning 90 per cent of the poll against an officially backed rival.

The only evidence of an election appeared to be a sprinkling of candidates at Moscow metro stations handing out leaflets to people returning from work.

Lithuanians speed up elections

Meanwhile secession-minded Lithuania and Latvia have stepped up their confrontation with the Kremlin, while the leaders in Moldavia, another restive republic, have agreed to negotiate with grassroots political movements.

In Lithuania, some local election boards have moved up the date for parliamentary run-off elections in an attempt to form the republic's parliament before the next meeting of the National Congress of People's Deputies.

At that meeting, scheduled to begin March 12, the congress is expected to approve new powers for the Soviet president, including the power to suspend the local parliaments in individual republics.

The earlier run-off elections in Lithuania are scheduled for Sunday. Much of the Lithuanian parliament was chosen in a multiparty election on Feb. 25. But there weren't enough members elected to fill the two-thirds of the seats required for the parliament to convene.

The parliament is expected to vote for Lithuania to secede from the Soviet Union. Both Sajudis, the people's front movement leading the independence movement, and the Lithuanian Communist Party support secession.

Strike shuts down Kathmandu

KATHMANDU (R) — A general strike called by Nepal's banned political parties to back their campaign for multi-party democracy virtually shut down Kathmandu Friday.

Nearly all shops were closed. The only traffic on the ancient city's streets were police and government vehicles, residents said.

Police in riot gear were in evidence in the capital of one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

Officials of the banned parties, outlawed 30 years ago, said they did not plan to hold demonstrations after police successfully snuffed out attempts to hold them last Sunday.

"If we announce a time and place for a protest, the police would be there and we'll have a repeat of Sunday," one party official said.

Those demonstrations were intended to mark a "black day" of mourning for at least 12 people killed in protests a week earlier.

Last Sunday police rounded up people and broke up groups as demonstrators gathered in advance of the planned protest. Three prominent politicians were arrested.

So far the government of King Birendra, 44, has shown no signs of willingness to depart from the current partyless system of elected councils, which it says are democratic.

It says that as a country sandwiched between India and China, Nepalese parties would be easily influenced from abroad.

The Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, which is organising the campaign, is an alliance of the centrist Nepal Congress Party, which has close links to India's Congress Party, and Communist groups working together for the first time.

The government says the movement has been hijacked by Communist extremists.

The official Radio Nepal said on the eve of the general strike "His Majesty's government will never lag behind in taking legal action against those who attempt to disrupt public life."

The government says 560 movement supporters are in detention or under house arrest. Human-rights groups put the figure at least three times higher.

Judge who sentenced Ceausescu commits suicide

BUCHAREST (AP) — The head of the military tribunal that condemned dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife to death has committed suicide, officials said Friday.

Li-Gen, Gica Popa killed himself Thursday at the Ministry of Justice, said Nicolae Dide, the spokesman for the interim government.

Dide said he did not know how Popa died, but other sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he had shot himself in the head.

News of Popa's death came on the first scheduled day of trials in Timisoara of army and police officers accused of complicity in genocide in connection with shooting anti-Ceausescu demonstrators there. Wide-spread outrage over the shootings in mid-December sparked the revolution that toppled the dictator and his system.

Although the identities of those on the panel of judges had never been made public, a source said that Popa had been troubled for more than two months by anonymous death threats, apparently from Ceausescu loyalists.

Dide confirmed that Popa's voice was the one heard on the video-recording of the Dec. 25 trial of the Communist dictator and his wife, Elena, broadcast repeatedly on Romanian and international television.

The angry voice was heard interrogating the pair and then announcing that they had been sentenced to death for crimes against the Romanian people. None of the military judges was shown on the tape.

The trial was held in an undisclosed location three days after the start of the bloody revolution that swept Ceausescu and his supporters from power and ended more than four decades of Communist rule.

The prosecutor-general's office and police were investigating Popa's death, officials said, without divulging more details on its circumstances.

Meanwhile in Timisoara, 21 former officials of Ceausescu's notorious security police went on trial Friday before a military court on charges related to the deaths of as many as 1,000 people in last December's uprising.

Curfew imposed on Kashmir after death of 49 protesters

SRINAGAR (AP) — About 1,000 Muslims wearing death shrouds tried to march to Srinagar Friday, a day after government troops opened fire on two other processions and killed 49 people, police said.

A senior police official said marchers demanding independence for Kashmir gathered in Sumbal, 25 kilometres north of Srinagar, but were stopped by soldiers before they could leave the town.

"They were forced to return back," the officer said.

Witnesses contacted by telephone said the demonstrators wore shrouds, symbolising a willingness to sacrifice their lives.

The police officer said at least 49 people were killed and between 45 and 100 were wounded Thursday when soldiers and paramilitary forces fired on two separate processions demanding secession of Muslim-dominated Kashmir from predominantly Hindu India.

The separatists were marching towards Srinagar and in both cases tried to seize guns from the security forces who then opened fire, other witnesses said, also speaking on condition they not be identified.

Neighbouring Pakistan, a Muslim nation that disputes India's right to govern Kashmir, condemned what it called the "brutal Indian response... to the people of Kashmir, who were asking only for their right of self-determination."

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government said Thursday's killings were the result of "wanton shooting by the Indian security forces."

In New Delhi, a government spokesman said Indian troops opened fire because they were attacked. He, too, spoke on condition of anonymity, in keeping with the usual government practice.

A curfew was imposed in Srinagar at 4 a.m. Friday (2230 GMT Thursday), leaving the city's streets deserted except for army and paramilitary police. A curfew was also clamped on six nearby towns.

The loudspeakers on mosques, which often blare Islamic and pro-independence slogans, were quiet Friday.

The police officer said on Friday one group of separatists defied the curfew and gathered near Dal Lake, a scenic tourist haven in more peaceful times.

The group was chased away by paramilitary troops, he said.

An unidentified protester fell to his death in the Cold Lake, he added.

The death brought to 162 the number of people killed in Kashmir since the current round of secession-related violence flared on Jan. 20 following a government crackdown on Muslim militants.

The security forces eased curfew restrictions last month, prompting daily processions by tens of thousands of Muslims demanding independence.

On Thursday, witnesses estimated that more than 1 million people marched through Srinagar, the centre of the secessionist movement and the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state.

Srinagar's population is slightly less than 1 million, but residents of nearby towns stream in every day to take part in the processions that wind their way for hours through the main streets.

The Kashmir issue has been simmering — and flaring periodically — for more than four decades, following the 1947 partition of the old British colonial Asian subcontinent into mostly Hindu India and overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan.

The division, largely along religious lines, left the former princely state of Kashmir in dispute. Srinagar and the surrounding Kashmir Valley became part of the Indian state of Jammu-Kashmir.

French Socialists back reform tide in Africa

PARIS (R) — France's ruling Socialists have voiced cautious support for a wave of pro-democracy unrest sweeping through former French colonies in Africa.

Breaking official silence on demands for change in Francophone Africa, and contradicting conservative leader Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Michel Rocard said Paris would reward reforming states with economic aid.

"Africa's political structures are being questioned," Rocard said in an official dinner speech, reported by the Paris daily Le Monde in its Friday edition.

"However, it should be stressed that several African states have already embarked on the task of political reform."

"They should continue on this path. And I solemnly say to their governments today that France will not hesitate to help them overcome their economic crisis and to support their progress towards democracy," he declared.

Echoing that position, Rocard's Socialist Party issued a statement Thursday welcoming the decision of the bankrupt West African state of Benin to recognise opposition parties, ending 15 years of one-party Marxist rule.

The statement appeared calculated to distance the Socialists from controversial remarks by opposition conservative leader Jacques Chirac last week that multi-party democracy was a luxury for African countries in need of development.

Chirac's comments brought a barrage of criticism from African opposition figures.

"We Africans are not children to be told what is good for us,"

the rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party said in an open letter to Chirac.

In Ivory Coast, outspoken academic Laurent Gbagbo described the remarks as "shocking, racist, irresponsible and toxic."

Chirac was racist to recommend one-party dictatorship for Africans while opposing it in Romania, he said.

"He is a toady because his only motivation is to please autocratic heads of state who are his friends in power," Gbagbo said in an interview.

On French radio, Chirac defended his views, originally voiced in Ivory Coast, which has been rocked by unprecedented political unrest. "There are no ideological divisions among Africans, but ethnic divisions," Chirac said.

Multi-party rule would result in tribal parties and anarchy at the expense of stability and development, Chirac said, citing Ivory Coast and Gabon as prosperous single-party states.

The pro-democracy movements in Eastern Europe have inspired strikes and protests in many French-speaking African states.

After decades in power, one-party administrations in Gabon, Ivory Coast and Benin are suddenly struggling for survival against opponents who call them corrupt, incompetent and unaccountable.

France has close economic and military ties with its former African colonies. French-based opposition groups have invoked France's avowed attachment to human rights to call on Paris to help usher in democracy in Africa.

Manila charges 2 civilians with rebellion and murder

MANILA (AP) — A hotel owner and his wife who were charged with rebellion and murder along with opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile surrendered Friday, the National Bureau of Investigation announced.

Rebecca Panlilio and his wife, Erlinda, were among seven people indicted last Tuesday in the most dramatic bid so far to prosecute those allegedly involved in the Dec. 1-9 coup attempt.

Three of the seven remain at large. They are former Lt.-Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, suspended provincial Gov. Rodolfo Aguinaldo and retired Brig.-Gen. Felix Brawner.

The seventh, former Lt.-Col. Billy Bibit, is in jail.

The Panilios were allegedly at Enrile's home on Dec. 1, when witnesses claimed they saw Honasan and about 100 rebel soldiers at the senator's residence. Enrile claims he has not seen Honasan since 1987.

Also Friday, a court in suburban Makati, where Enrile faces a relatively minor charge of harbouring a fugitive, received a bomb threat several hours before the case was to be raffled among the 28 judges of the regional trial court.

Security guards ordered employees to leave the court. A police bomb squad searched the premises for two hours but found no explosives.

A similar bomb scare Thursday disrupted activities at the regional trial court in suburban Quezon City near the northern police district headquarters where Enrile is being held.

When he was defence minister in February 1986, Enrile turned

against the late President Ferdinand Marcos and led the military mutiny that swept Mrs. Aquino into office. He was fired as defence minister in November 1986, after his followers tried to overthrow the new government.

In a news conference at the investigation bureau's headquarters, Panlilio expressed his innocence and said he believes he and his wife will be absolved.

"I do believe in the legal system," he said. "I'm sure we will be exonerated from this crime."

The supreme court Thursday ordered government prosecutors to answer within 10 days the Panlilio couple's petition challenging the validity of the charges against them.

The court has also granted a habeas corpus petition filed by Enrile and set a hearing next Tuesday on arguments by his lawyers that the "rebellion with murder" charge against him was illegal and unconstitutional.

Brig.-Gen. Guillermo Flores, who assumed command of the Philippine army Friday, said soldiers should uphold civilian supremacy over the military and urged commanders to address the "gripes" of their men.

"My primordial concern is... basic and simple: The army must exist for the security of the Filipino people, not as master of their destiny," Flores said.

About 3,000 militant troops, many of them from the army's elite Scout Ranger Regiment, launched the December coup attempt, the sixth and most serious bid to topple Mrs. Aquino.

The fighting left at least 113 people dead and more than 600 injured.

Nicaraguan draftees desert ranks

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Draftees in the Sandinista-controlled army are deserting their ranks and the military is reportedly hiding arms ahead of next month's swearing in of an opposition government.

Sandinista officials Thursday acknowledged the desertions but denied weapons and ammunition were being hoarded.

President Daniel Ortega also called on the United States to resume aid on the day he steps down to the opposition coalition that upset his leftist party in Sunday's election.

"The best that could happen would be for the contras to be demobilised by April 25 and for

the United States to lift the embargo and send the aid it was promised starting that day," Ortega told Nicaraguan journalists.

Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, elected to succeed Ortega as president on April 25, has echoed Ortega's call for the Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras, to lay down their weapons.

Her United National Opposition, or UNO, and Ortega's Sandinistas are beginning to discuss the process of transferring power. The Sandinistas staked out a tough set of positions Tuesday, including the dismantling of the U.S.-supported rebel force from jungle camps just across the Honduran border.

The deserters — draftees doing two years of compulsory military service — apparently have decided not to wait for the inauguration of Mrs. Chamorro, who is committed to banning the draft.

The Sandinistas, who receive Soviet and Cuban aid, also have demanded that the army and the Interior Ministry Security Forces remain intact, at least until the U.S.-backed rebels disband.

The close link between the Sandinista Party and the army and security forces has been a source of strength for the Sandinistas, but the army's integrity was questioned Thursday amid reports of desertions.

The deserters — draftees doing two years of compulsory military service — apparently have decided not to wait for the inauguration of Mrs. Chamorro, who is committed to banning the draft.

The deserters — draftees doing two years of compulsory military service — apparently have decided not to wait for the inauguration of Mrs. Chamorro, who is committed to banning the draft.

Pretoria cabinet to control covert operations

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President F.W. de Klerk, facing mounting criticism over killings of political opponents, has brought covert operations of the South African military under civilian control.

Announcing this Thursday night, De Klerk said the move was necessary in the interests of justice and because charges of official involvement in killings of anti-apartheid activists were threatening his political reform plans.

De Klerk pledged that any official found to be implicated in political assassinations would be brought to justice. Covert actions should be kept to "an absolute minimum," he said.

"Covert actions must be managed very carefully and firmly... I will see to that," he said, adding control of secret army units would be transferred from the military to the cabinet.

The move signals a further lessening by the five-month-old De Klerk administration of the military's former powerful influence in government under his predecessor P.W. Botha.

After taking office in September, de Klerk downgraded the military State Security Council, which critics had dubbed a shadow government, and transferred control of South Africa's National Intelligence Service espionage agency from the council to the cabinet.

Veteran Defence Minister Magnus Malan, who was close to Botha, is under pressure to resign over allegations that he exercised personal control over an army anti-terrorist unit suspected by police of murdering two anti-Pretoria activists.

After taking office in September, de Klerk downgraded the military State Security Council, which critics had dubbed a shadow government, and transferred control of South Africa's National Intelligence Service espionage agency from the council to the cabinet.

Veteran Defence Minister Magnus Malan, who was close to Botha, is under pressure to resign over allegations that he exercised personal control over an army anti-terrorist unit suspected by police of murdering two anti-Pretoria activists.

After taking office in September, de Klerk downgraded the military State Security Council, which critics had dubbed a shadow government, and transferred control of South Africa's National Intelligence Service espionage agency from the council to the cabinet.

Veteran Defence Minister Magnus Malan, who was close to Botha, is under pressure to resign over allegations that he exercised personal control over an army anti-terrorist unit suspected by police of murdering two anti-Pretoria activists.

After taking office in September, de Klerk downgraded the military State Security Council, which critics had dubbed a shadow government, and transferred control of South Africa's National Intelligence Service espionage agency from the council to the cabinet.

Veteran Defence Minister Magnus Malan, who was close to Botha, is under pressure to resign over allegations that he exercised personal control over an army anti-terrorist unit suspected by police of murdering two anti-Pretoria activists.

After taking office in September, de Klerk downgraded the military State Security Council, which critics had dubbed a shadow government, and transferred control of South Africa's National Intelligence Service espionage agency from the council to the cabinet.

Column 8

Foreign Language Oscar to be announced in Moscow

LOS ANGELES (AP) — This year's Academy Award for Best Foreign-Language Film will be announced in Moscow, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Thursday.

Gilbert Cates, who will produce the 62nd Academy Awards telecast, said at a news conference that the award presentation will mark the first time that an Oscar winner has been revealed overseas. "We just thought this was very unique," Cates said. "It requires an enormous amount of cooperation between the two countries. The Cooperation and Enthusiasm on the part of the Soviet TV industry has been overwhelming." While the award will be announced via satellite in Moscow, the trophy presentation will be made in Los Angeles, Cates said. In Moscow, the winner will be announced by the Russian Actress Natalia Negoda ("Little Vera") and a yet unnamed U.S. actor.

Policeman sues Gabor for \$10m

LOS ANGELES (R) — A Beverly Hills policeman who was slapped by Zsa Zsa Gabor when he stopped her Rolls Royce has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against her, accusing her of causing him emotional and physical distress. A lawyer for the two metre policeman, Paul Kramer, alleged the eight-times married Gabor had appeared on numerous radio and talks shows in recent months and had engaged in a malicious and vindictive campaign to defame Kramer. Gabor was sentenced last October to spend three days in jail, fined \$12,000 and ordered to spend 120 hours in a shelter for homeless women for slapping the policeman. Gabor, who lists her age as 59 although a school classmate said she is 72, was also ordered by a Beverly Hills municipal judge to put her true age on her driving licence. Gabor was stopped for having an out-of-date registration plate on her \$110,000 Rolls Royce. She told a court jury Kramer threw her over the bonnet of her car, lifted her dress to her hips and threatened to break her arms and legs. "I slapped him... but it wasn't hard enough," she said. Kramer, in his complaint, alleged Gabor's conduct was international and malicious.

Japan's crown prince sets up own residence

TOKYO (AP) — Crown Prince Naruhito, eldest son of Emperor Akihito and first in line to the chrysanthemum throne, moved from his parents' residence to his own home Wednesday, the Imperial Household Agency said. The crown prince, who turned 30 last Friday and is regarded as Japan's most eligible bachelor, has lived most of his life with his parents, except during studies at Oxford University's Merton College in 1983-85. The prince's new residence is in the same Akasaka Place compound as that of his parents, about a 10-minute walk away. His new two-storey residence, with total floor space of 700 square metres, has rooms to accommodate about 50 chamberlains and other palace officials serving the crown prince. Asked at a news conference last week about marriage prospects, Naruhito, who once said he intended to marry before 30, replied: "I may have met my ideal woman, and I may not have." Naruhito's younger brother, Prince Aya, 24, is to marry Kiko Kawashima, a 23-year-old graduate student, in June.

Global weather (major world cities)

AMSTERDAM... 04 39 06 49 Cloudy
ATHENS... 09 18 19 26 Rain
BAHRAIN... 14 27 22 72 Clear
BANGKOK... 26 78 23 91 Clear
BUENOS AIRES... 16 59 14 53 Cloudy
CAIRO... 11 52 24 75 Clear
CHICAGO... 03 27 05 41 Clear
COPENHAGEN... 08 37 05 41 Cloudy
FRANKFURT... 04 38 07 49 Rain
GENEVA... 08 48 13 55 Rain
HONG KONG... 13 55 17 59 Cloudy
ISTANBUL... 04 38 14 57 Rain
LONDON... 05 41 10 50 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES... 11 51 15 61 Clear
MADRID... 05 41 20 68 Clear
MECCA... 15 59 22 84 Clear
MONTREAL... 12 10 24 55 Snow
MOSCOW... 31 34 07 45 Cloudy
NEW DELHI... 13 56 21 60 Clear
NEW YORK... 20 52 22 68 Clear
PARIS... 07 42 13 55 Rain
ROME... 08 16 16 61 Clear
SYDNEY... 19 66 27 81 Cloudy
TOKYO... 06 49 11 52 Clear
VIENNA... 03 38 08 47 Cloudy